SUNDAY
April 27, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
28 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU ON SUNDAY

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[1]Estimated battery life based on testing using a median Pixel user battery usage profile across a mix of talk, data, standby, and use of other features. See g.co/pixel/batteryhealth for details. [2]Pixel updates for seven years from when the device first became available on the Google Store in the US. See g.co/pixel/updates for details. [3]Designed to comply with dust and water protection rating IP68 under IEC standard 60529 when each device leaves the factory but the device is not water or dust proof. Damage from drops, tumbles, and other external forces is not covered under warranty. See g.co/pixel/water for details.

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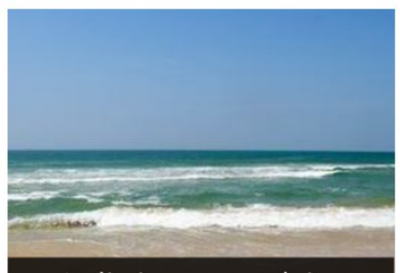
VATICAN MOURNS

Pope Francis laid to rest

Around four lakh people gather in Rome to say goodbye to the Argentine pontiff

WORLD » PAGE 16

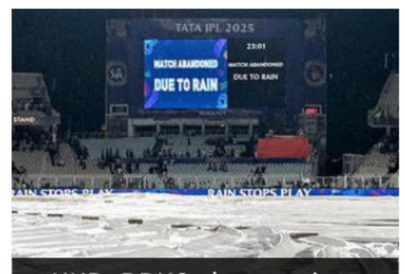


India increases claim over Arabian sea region

NEWS » PAGE 11

How did WHO nations strike a pandemic deal?

FAQ » PAGE 14



KKR, PBKS share points as match called off

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

Measles cases up in BBMP area

BENGALURU
Although the incidence of measles, a highly contagious viral infection, is on a decline in Karnataka, several pockets in Ballari and BBMP area have been consistently reporting higher number of cases since 2024. » PAGE 4

High gold prices dim aspirations

BENGALURU
Though this time of the year is considered auspicious to buy gold, many people are choosing to skip buying it for now as gold prices have hit record highs. Jewellers, however, are leaving no stone unturned to attract customers despite the skyrocketing prices.

» PAGE 5

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 7
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Bring Pahalgam attack sponsors to justice: UNSC

China, Pakistan join rest of the Security Council members in condemning the terror strike in the 'strongest terms'; Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif says his govt. is ready for a neutral investigation

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on Saturday condemned in the "strongest terms" the April 22 terror strike at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir.

The remarks from the top grouping of the UN came even as various heads of governments and states continued to call Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveying condolences on the attack that killed 26, including a Nepali citizen. "The members of the Security Council expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government of India and Government of Nepal," said a statement from the 15-member council. It also stressed the need to bring the perpetrators and sponsors to justice.

Shattered Valley: A CRPF jawan patrolling the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar on Saturday. IMRAN NISSAR

China and Pakistan too joined the rest of the UNSC in condemning the attack. China is a permanent member of the UNSC, while Pakistan is a non-permanent member.

India has alleged that the terror suspects had "cross-border support". Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had briefed G-20 envoys about "cross-border linkages", hinting at the involvement of Pakistan-based elements.

Separately, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said his government is open to a neutral investigation into the attack.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

More houses razed, several detained amid tension at LoC

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The crackdown in J&K in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack continued on Saturday as at least five more houses of alleged active militants were razed. Seven houses have been demolished so far. Over 100 residences of supporters were raided and hundreds were detained.

Skirmishes by Pakistan Army posts along the Line of Control continued for the second day.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 10

Shah admitted to security lapse: Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had admitted during the all-party meeting on April 24 that security lapses were the reason for the terrorist attack on tourists at Pahalgam, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge has said.

Speaking at a function here on Saturday, he said despite the existence of a three-phase security, the Centre was not able to ensure the safety of tourists and added that the Congress had decided to support decisions of the Centre in the interests of the nation.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, speaking in Mysuru said that what should be prioritised now was ensuring strict measures to strengthen security in Jammu and Kashmir rather than going to war with Pakistan.

FULL REPORT » PAGE 9

Six years on, Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to restart by June-end

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Six years after the pilgrimage was last flagged off, the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra will restart with about 750 pilgrims travelling to Tibet between June and August, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Saturday. The first batch of pilgrims is expected to travel out of Delhi on June 30, indicating a few weeks' delay compared with the previous years when they would start in early June.

The pilgrimage, which originally began in 1981 under a bilateral agreement, was suspended by the Chinese government due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, and was not resumed due to the Galwan killings and tensions on the Line of Actual Control since then.

While an agreement on disengagement between Indian and Chinese troops was completed in October 2024, talks on de-escalation and demobilisation of troops are ongoing.

Mount Kailash

The resumption of the Mansarovar Yatra is one of the first such measures signalling the restoration of ties between the two countries. Other measures, including restoration of direct flights, resumption of visas in all categories, and exchanges of media and think tank experts, are also being discussed by Delhi and Beijing.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

Iran inferno

Harbour horror: Rescue workers at the blast-hit Shahid Rajaei port, southwest of Bandar Abbas in the province of Hormozgan, in Iran on Saturday. According to reports, five people were killed and more than 700 injured in the explosion. AFP (REPORT ON PAGE 16)

Ranya, Tarun denied bail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka HC on Saturday refused to grant bail to actor Ranya Rao and her accomplice, Tarun Konduru Raju, in a gold smuggling case. Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty passed the order while dismissing the petitions filed by the duo after the magistrate and the sessions courts declined to grant bail. The copy of the judgment is yet to be released.

Rao was arrested on March 3 at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence after she was found carrying about 14 kg of gold bars illegally, as she had failed to declare the gold in her possession at the customs desk in the airport. Tarun, a citizen of U.S., was arrested subsequently.

Plea for water pact with Maharashtra

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

An umbrella organisation of Kannada outfits has urged the State government to step in to overcome the drinking water scarcity in parts of North Karnataka by concluding an agreement with neighbouring Maharashtra to get Krishna waters.

Several districts such as Belagavi, Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Raichur, and Yadgir are reeling under acute water scarcity and officials say that water available in the Krishna river-bed will last only for a fortnight.

FULL REPORT » PAGE 6

BBMP polls likely to be delayed beyond October

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), which has been without an elected council for over three years, is unlikely to get one soon, with the Governor's assent to the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024.

Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy, speaking to *The Hindu*, acknowledged the challenges ahead, stating that the exercises mandated by the new legislation would require at least six months to complete. "If everything goes according to plan, the BBMP elections may be conducted before the end of 2025," he said.

Former councillors say that MLAs across political parties have long been seeking excuses to delay elections to the BBMP fearing a loss of control over the civic body. They claim that the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act (GBGA), 2024, has now provided them with "another perfect opportunity" to postpone the polls.

Processes involved

Under the GBGA, the government is tasked with redrawing the boundaries of new corporations, carrying out ward delimitation across multiple corporations, and finalising reservation of seats – processes that offer scope for significant delays.

According to the provisions of the Act, the government is mandated to complete these exercises and issue a notification within four months. However, many believe that the process could extend much longer, potentially dragging on for at least nine months.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike head office at Hudson Circle. FILE PHOTO

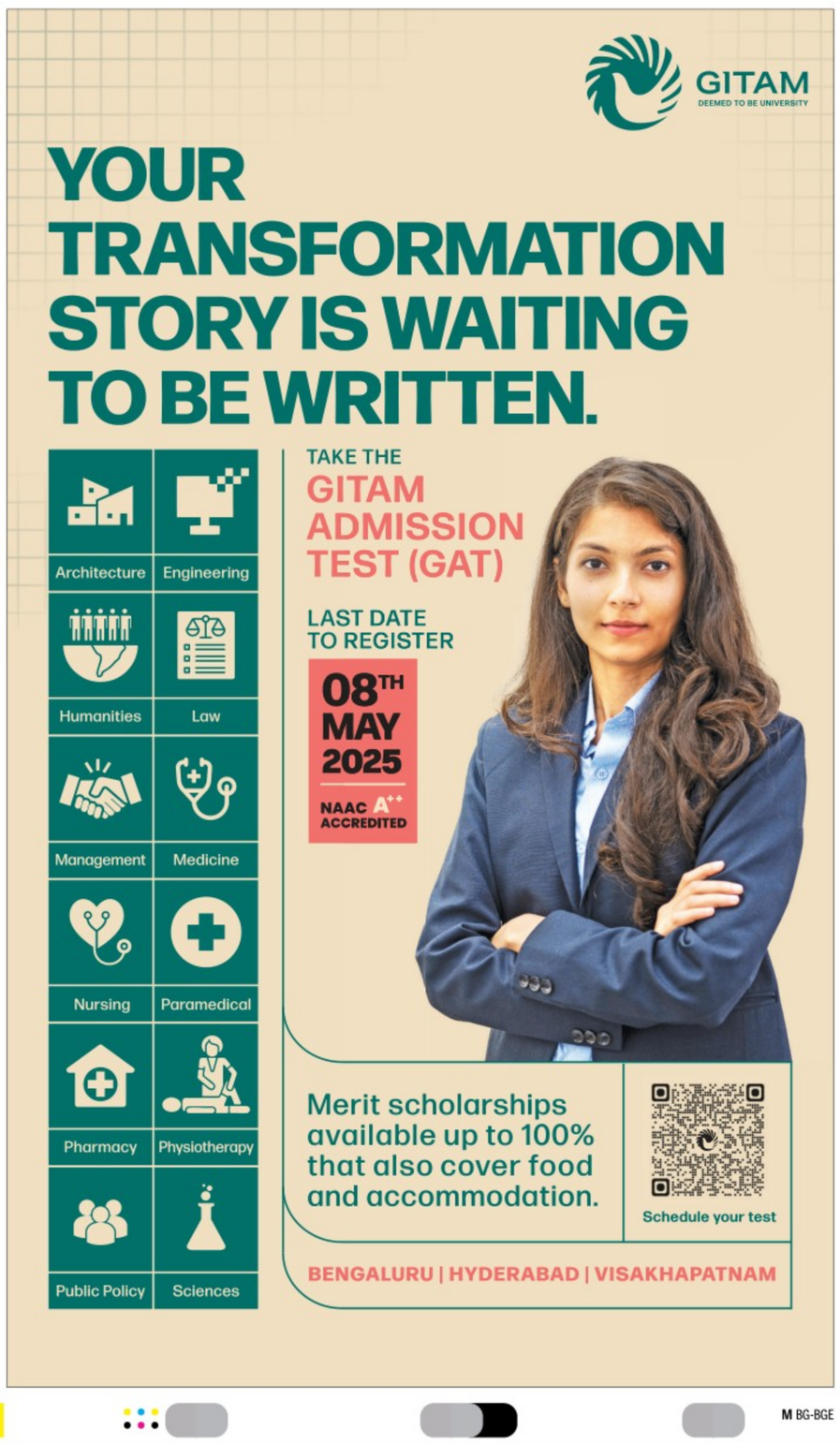
Speaking on condition of anonymity, former Congress councillors have said unless the courts compel action, the BBMP elections are unlikely to be held anytime soon

All-party meeting

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar is expected to convene all-party meetings to discuss the drawing of boundaries for new corporations – the first formal step toward implementing the GBGA. However, former corporators dismissed these meetings as "mere eyewash", alleging there is an unwritten understanding among MLAs to delay the process.

Even former Congress councillors, speaking on condition of anonymity, maintained that unless the courts intervene and compel action, elections to the BBMP are unlikely to be held anytime soon. They further alleged that MLAs from both the Congress and the BJP are disinterested in holding elections, as they prefer administrative rule, which allows them to interfere easily in civic affairs.

However, Abdul Wajid, a former Congress councillor, welcomed the Governor's assent to the Bill, while admitting that it could take at least six months to finalise the boundaries for the new corporations. Nevertheless, he insisted that the State government remains committed to conducting the elections at the earliest.



Changing times: Shaktivel, a handloom weaver from Coimbatore, now works in a home-based powerloom unit in Balaramapuram.

Carrying on the legacy: Women work at a small-scale handloom weaving unit in Balaramapuram.

Midas touch: A *kasavu* sari being woven on a traditional handloom in Balaramapuram.

A town that weaves gold

Balaramapuram in Kerala holds a rich history going back to its roots in the princely state of Travancore and has secured a unique brand name for its handloom textiles

Nirmal Harindran
nirmal.harindran
@thehindu.co.in

A town that took shape in stealth during a time of revolt within the princely state of Travancore roughly between 1798 and 1810, Balaramapuram in present-day Kerala has secured a unique brand name for its handloom dhotis and saris.

The town in Thiruvananthapuram district was named after a former ruler of Travancore, Avittam Thirunal Bala Rama Varma, who was instrumental in developing it as a handloom weaving hub.

Families of skilled handloom weavers were brought from parts of Salem and other small towns in modern-day Tamil Nadu to Travancore during his reign and given land and other resources to set up their weaving units. They were tasked specifically with making special handwoven cloth for the royal family.

Originally, skilled workers belonging to the Shaliya caste were brought in and soon a textile revolution started taking shape with Balaramapuram at its centre. Taking advantage of this growth, more settlers who had migrated to Balaramapuram for supporting jobs within the industry, slowly started learning the craft to set up their own small-scale units to cater to the market.

Today, powerlooms have taken over the industry, with even small home-based manufacturers forced to acquire powerlooms that are faster and can meet the seasonal sales demand.

Shaktivel, a craftsman from Coimbatore, migrated to Balaramapuram 15 years ago, enticed by the opportunities that the industry has offered for generations. Although he is a skilled handloom weaver, Shaktivel now works at a small-scale powerloom manufacturing unit with eight devices set up by a former traditional weaving family in Balaramapuram.

Soft texture

"It is the traditional method of crafting what we call the '*Unakkapaavu dhotis*' that brought business to Balaramapuram. It is an intricate method where naturally processed cotton is hand-stretched and sun-dried before it is woven. This method uses natural non-chemical starches and is priced higher in the market for its soft texture that lasts," says history professor Joy Balan Vlathangara, who hails from Vlathangara, a village next to Balaramapuram town.

Balaramapuram textiles are celebrated in the market today for its unique brand identity, but gone are the days when handloom weavers were celebrated as skilled artists.

Adding a shine: Golden threads used for *kasavu* (border) weaving seen at a cottage industry unit.

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Massive response to career counselling session

As many as 40 higher educational institutions, including private medical and engineering colleges, banks, and around 1,200 students and parents participate in the event organised by *The Hindu*

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The 23rd edition of The Hindu EducationPlus-Career Counselling-2025 commenced on Saturday at Mangala Mantapa auditorium of NMKRV College here and received a massive response from students and parents.

Around 40 higher educational institutions, including private medical and engineering colleges, banks, and around 1,200 students and parents participated in the event. It facilitated the students and parents to collect information about the colleges, various courses, fee structure, infrastructure, placement, and so on.

Aspirants gathered details about Civil Service Exam (CSE) conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), CET-2025, COMED-K, medical, engineering, and other professional courses from experts through various sessions.

Career guide: Ramalinga Reddy, Minister for Transport and Muzrai, with Ameen-e-Mudassar, founder and CEO, CIGMA; A.S. Ravi, former PRO, Karnataka Examinations Authority; K.S. Ravindranath, director, Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, Bengaluru; K.N. Subramanya, principal, R.V. College of Engineering, and R. Rangamanju, 24th rank holder in UPSC CSE 2024, at the 23rd edition of The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling session in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Exploring options: Students and parents at the 23rd edition of The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling session held at NMKRV College in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

State has pride of place

In his inaugural address, Ramalinga Reddy, Minister for Transport and Muzrai, said, "Karnataka is famous for higher education and has the highest number of top engineering and medical colleges. Therefore, it is a favourite destination for students from outside the State and abroad too."

He advised the younger generation to study professional courses. "The State has a population of about 7 crore, of which only 1% can be given government jobs. The private sector has provided the rest with a large number of jobs. Thousands of multi-national companies are operating in the State, and Bengaluru is the capital of start-ups," he said, also urging students tobecome employers by pursuing entrepreneurship.

Mr. Reddy recalled his schooldays and said that coming from a rural area, it was difficult for him to get education. "We had one teacher to teach classes 1 to 5. I studied in Kannada medium until class 10, and switching to English medium in PUC level was difficult. But now the education sector has made huge improvements, and quality education is being provided with good facilities in government and private schools and colleges," he said.

Recalling experience

Dr. Rangamanju, All India Rank (AIR) 24 and Karnataka State topper in the Civil Services (Main) Examination-2024, shared his experience and explained the speciality of the number 24 in his life, "I started to prepare for CSE at the age of 24 and I got the AIR 24 in CSE. My library seat number in the private coaching centre was also 24."

"I came from the medical field. My father passed away while he was an IPS officer. Seeing him in service was my biggest inspiration. It was in third year MBBS that I decided to take CSE exam," he said.

"We are entering a world where artificial intelligence (AI) is changing how we see things. It makes me nervous and even a little suspicious how it changes the way we look at social issues and even the government. As long as society exists, governance must exist. Those who govern, permanent executives like civil servants, will always remain," he added.

He lauded '*The Hindu*'s contribution in helping him crack the CSE, adding that he regularly followed *The Hindu* newspaper and its editorials.

"I suggest that CSE aspirants not go for brand-new materials. There is an entire market running on the fear of missing out. You will be flooded with content every single day. So, revise the same source again and again. Have a small group for study discussion and find a good library," he said.

Speaking about medical courses, K.S. Ravindranath, director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, Bengaluru, said that the medical profession will demand more service-minded, community-oriented people with a human touch and ethical values.

"If you take up a career in medicine, it is a noble profession, and there is a lot of respect in society. There are around 760 medical colleges in India, and around 1.18 lakh seats are available. In Karnataka, there are around 70 medical colleges, including 24 government colleges with around 12,000 seats. NEET qualification is mandatory to get into any college, whether it is government, private, or overseas. If you get a good ranking in NEET and get a government quota seat, the fee will be less and reduce the financial burden to the parents," he said.

Advice on engineering

Speaking about engineering courses, K.N. Subramanya, principal of RV College of Engineering, Bengaluru, said, "Whenever you choose engineering colleges, don't stick to the main branches. Instead, you make cluster branches. If you take an electronic cluster, you have electrical engineering, electrical and telecommunication, electronic and instrumentation, and medical electronics. In the mechanical cluster, industry engineering, automobile, aerospace engineering, and mechatronics are there. In the computer science cluster - AI, DATA Science, robotics, bio-tech, and chemical engineering are other clusters. From this year onwards, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has ordered that every cluster should go through AI. Apart from this, irrespective of branches, students can learn AI and other courses as a minors degree courses online."

Pramod Hegde, chartered accountant (CA) and chairman of the Southern India Regional Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, explained the demand for CAs globally. He also explained the curriculum and the scope of the CA profession. A.S. Ravi, former PRO of Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), explained the CET-2025 counselling process.

Ameen-e-Mudassar, career counsellor and CEO of CIGMA, talked about general education and said, "Students must learn multiple skills, upgrade themselves, and try to acquire online knowledge. Don't choose your career influenced by others."

Many students raised questions and cleared their doubts about the selection of professional courses seats, counselling process and other things.

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Regional sponsor: MVJ College of Engineering, Bengaluru.

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(With inputs from Vyas Ponnuri and Mathew William)

> It was a useful programme for parents and students. Before we came here, we did not know many things about professional courses, colleges, and fee structure. We got all the information here.
>
> **NITHIN NARAYAN,** student

> The sessions motivated me and provided insights about career opportunities. I was inspired by Dr. Ranga Manju and his story of cracking CSE in the sixth attempt. I would like to pursue either medicine or dental science.
>
> **TRISHIKA,** student

> It was an insightful and informative session. My son wants to shift to Commerce stream, and in our family we don't have too much knowledge of the field. We got a chance to interact with some of the dignitaries from the field.
>
> **RASHMI,** parent

> The sessions served as a good inspiration and we learnt about how one is supposed to make a path for their career and how it should be meaningful.
>
> **MOHAN RAJ,** parent

> Such a platform is always required for students who have either just finished or are still in their II PU. We got over 70 enquiries and we were looking forward to interacting with many of the students.
>
> **CORRESPONDENT,** Presidency University

Workshop held on prevention of cybercrime

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sree Thyagaraja Cooperative Bank Ltd. organised a workshop titled 'Precautions to be taken for prevention of cybercrime' on Saturday at Sri Rama Mandira, N.R. Colony, Basavanagudi.

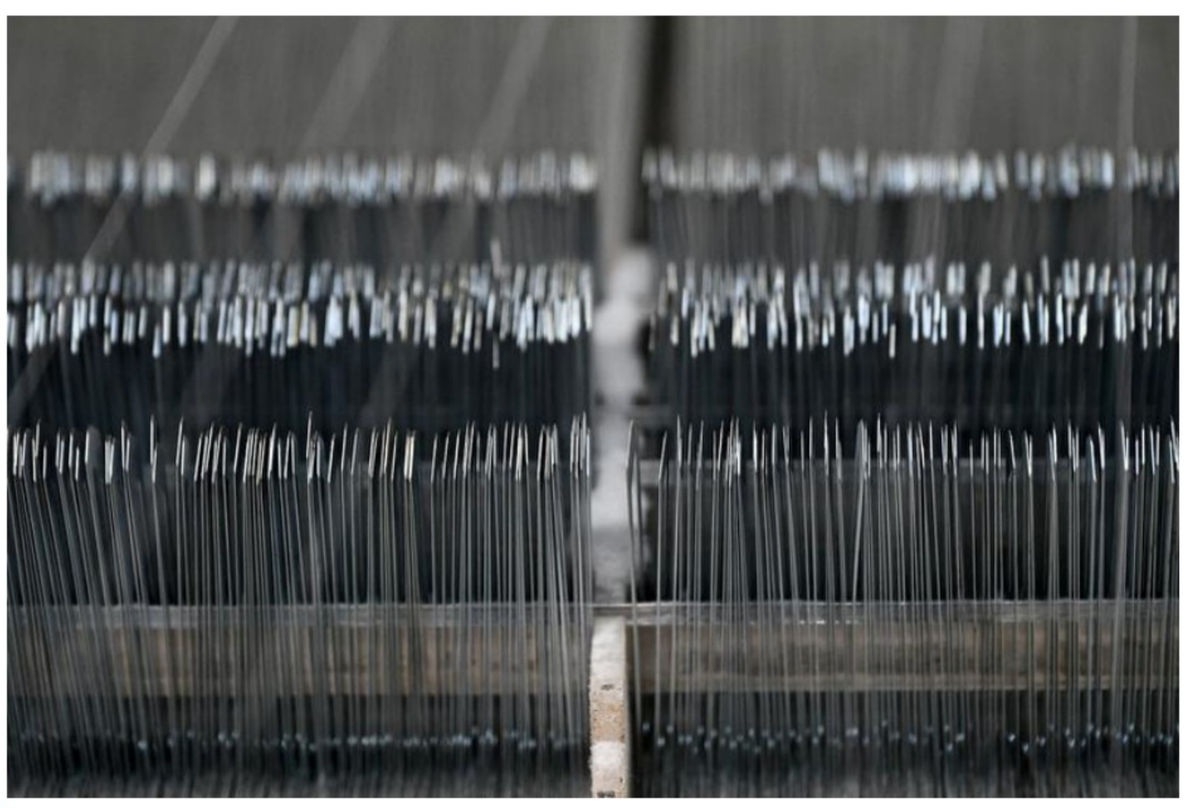
Ravi Subramanya, MLA, inaugurated the event by unveiling awareness placards. In his speech, he underscored the importance of secure digital practices, advising individuals to maintain two separate bank accounts – one for everyday use and another for sensitive transactions. He highlighted the increasing vulnerability of senior citizens, women, and even educated individuals to cyber threats. He also cautioned against sharing personal details on social media and called for more educational initiatives. M.R. Venkatesh, president of Sree Thyagaraja Cooperative Bank Ltd., called for a strategic approach to cybercrime prevention. He stressed the importance of enhancing the technological capabilities of the Police Department's Cyber Cell and urged for greater collaboration between the government and cooperative banks in strengthening digital security.

The workshop included sessions by senior police officials experienced in cybercrime investigation. ACP Vijaya Hadagali (Cybercrime branch, Banashankari) spoke about common types of cyber frauds targeting the public. DCP K.N. Yashwanth Kumar (Cybercrime Cell, CID) offered practical advice on staying safe online and highlighted preventive measures everyone should adopt.

Cog in the loom: Many independent home-based weavers still continue their work.

Precise craft: A worker carefully weaves a k*asavu* sari on a traditional device.

Practised routine: The traditional handloom, called *kuzhi thari* or pit loom, where workers stand in a pit to operate the device.



In tune: The movement of a loom is a graceful, repetitive motion that reflects the weaver's skill. It works by holding the warp threads — the long, vertical threads — under tension so that weft threads (the horizontal ones) can be woven through them.

Parts from the past: Local historian and antiques collector V.J. Abey scouting for old machinery and weaving tools at a home-based powerloom unit in Balaramapuram.

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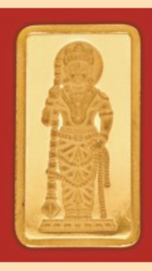

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ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷದ ಸಾಧನಾ ಸಮಾವೇಶ

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ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27-04-2025 ಭಾನುವಾರ ಸಮಯ: ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಸ್ಥಳ: ಭೈರದೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಕುಂದಾಣ ಹೋಬಳಿ ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳೆದ 2 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ 5000 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಪ್ರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿವೆ.

- ನಿವೇಶನ ರಹಿತರಿಗೆ ನಿವೇಶನ ಹಕ್ಕುಪತ್ರ ವಿತರಣೆ — **10 ಸಾವಿರ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳು**
- ಶಂಕುಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ — **256 ಕೋಟಿ**
- ಸಿ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್. ನಿಧಿಯಿಂದ ಶಂಕು ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ — **125 ಕೋಟಿ**
- ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ — **465 ಕೋಟಿ**
- ಸವಲತ್ತು ವಿತರಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಶಂಕುಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ — **1000 ಕೋಟಿ**

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ನುಡಿದಂತೆ ನಡೆದಿದ್ದೇವೆ...

ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ

- ರೂ. 406 ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಹರಳೂರು ಮುದ್ದೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹೈಟೆಕ್ ಡಿಫೆನ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಏರೋಸ್ಪೇಸ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಹಂತ 2 ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿರುವ 220/66/11 ಕೆ.ವಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉಪಕೇಂದ್ರ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ.
- ರೂ. 9.91 ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ.
- ರೂ. 6 ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಶ್ವನಾಥಪುರ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಯ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಮತ್ತು ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ.
- ರೂ. 4.6 ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ನಗರದ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಹಸಿರು ನ್ಯಾಯ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಪರಿಸರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಡಿ ಕ್ರಾಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪೈಪ್ ಲೈನ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ.

ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಶಂಕುಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ

- ರೂ.100 ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 600 ಬಂದಿಗಳ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ನೂತನ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಕಾರಾಗೃಹ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ.
- ರೂ.40 ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಹೆಚ್.ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಎಲ್.ಟಿ ಮೇಲ್ತಂತಿ ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳನ್ನು ಭೂಗತ ಕೇಬಲ್ ಗಳಾಗಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ.
- ರೂ.09 ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ 170 ನಂದಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಆಂಧ್ರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಗಡಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಸೇರುವ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಮಾರ್ಗ ವಿಜಯಪುರ, ಶಿಡ್ಲಘಟ್ಟ, ದಿಬ್ಬೂರಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಇ-ತಿಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ ಜೇಳೂರು ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಸರಪಳಿ 14.53 ರಿಂದ 15.35 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ವರೆಗೆ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಪಥದ ಕಾಂಕ್ರಿಟ್ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ(ಶಿಡ್ಲಘಟ್ಟ ಜಂಕ್ಷನ್ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ).

ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಜೊತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆಹಾರ, ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಹಕ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸಚಿವರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಹೆಚ್. ಮುನಿಯಪ್ಪರವರು ಅನ್ನಭಾಗ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಚಾಲನೆ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿರುವುದು.

ನಮ್ಮ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗ್ಯಾರಂಟಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

ಶಕ್ತಿ — ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಬಸ್ ಪ್ರಯಾಣ ಉಚಿತ
ಅನ್ನಭಾಗ್ಯ — ಬಡವರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು 10kg
ಗೃಹ ಜ್ಯೋತಿ — ಪ್ರತಿ ಮನೆಗೆ 200 ಯೂನಿಟ್‌ವರೆಗೆ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉಚಿತ
ಗೃಹಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ — ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ಪ್ರತಿ ಮನೆಯ ಯಜಮಾನಿಗೆ ₹2000
ಯುವನಿಧಿ — ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ನಿರುದ್ಯೋಗ ಭತ್ಯೆ ₹3000 | ₹1500

"ನಮ್ಮ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಂಪರೆಯನ್ನು ಗೌರವಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಪಾಡುವುದು" -ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಭಾರತೀಯನ ಸಂವಿಧಾನಬದ್ಧ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ.

Measles: Incidence declining, but cases up in many pockets of Ballari and in BBMP area

In 2024, Ballari and BBMP area recorded 243 and 103 measles cases respectively, the highest in the State

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Although the incidence of measles, a highly contagious viral infection, is on a decline in Karnataka, several pockets in Ballari and BBMP area have been consistently reporting higher number of cases since 2024.

According to data from the State Health Department, the number of laboratory confirmed, clinically compatible and epi-linked measles cases reduced from 4,001 in 2023 to 1,115 in 2024.

This year as of April 22, the State recorded 292 cases. Likewise, the number of rubella cases have also reduced from 237 in 2023 to 166 in 2024. This year (till April 22), the State has recorded 92 rubella cases.

In 2024, Ballari and BBMP areas recorded 243 and 103 measles cases respectively, the highest in the State. This year till April 22, these two districts recorded 91 and 25 cases respectively. While the highest number of rubella cases in 2024 have been reported in BBMP areas at 23, this year (till April 22) Yadgir has seen the highest at 15.

No. of cases in Karnataka

	Measles	Rubella
2023	4,001	237
2024	1,115	166
2025	292	92

(Jan. to April 22)

MR vaccination coverage in Karnataka

Source: 2024-2025 HMIS data

- First dose : 96%
- Second dose: 93%

Lowest coverage in BBMP

- First dose : 83%
- Second dose: 81%

A file photo of a vial of the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine. REUTERS

Outbreaks

The number of laboratory confirmed measles outbreaks decreased from 30 in 2023 to six in 2024 and three this year so far. An outbreak is defined as five or more cases, or any death, confirmed from a small geographical area over four weeks. The State has not seen any rubella outbreak since 2023, said Ansar Ahmed, State Project Director, Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP).

Measles and rubella are highly infectious viral diseases that can lead to serious illnesses, lifelong complications, and even death.

Due to their high infection rate, India has set a goal to eliminate these diseases by 2026.

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on Thursday launched the National Zero Measles-Rubella Elimination campaign 2025-26, marking a significant step towards India's goal of eliminating measles and rubella by 2026.

In Karnataka, this year (January to April 22), three districts - Dakshina Kannada, Davangere and Kodagu - have reported zero measles cases and eight districts including Bagalkot, Belagavi, Bengaluru Urban, Kodagu and Koppal have recorded zero rubella cases, according to data.

Dr. Ahmed said any person who is unvaccinated is susceptible. Children under five, pregnant women and persons with compromised immune systems are at higher risk of severe complications, he said.

MR vaccine

Under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), two doses of the Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccine are provided free of cost to all eligible children, at 9-12 months and 16-24 months of age, respectively.

Currently, India's MR vaccination coverage stands at 93.7% for the first dose (2024-25 HMIS data) and 92.2% for the second dose.

Karnataka's MR vaccination coverage is 96% for the first dose (2024-2025 HMIS data) and 93% for the second dose. The vaccination coverage is the lowest in BBMP area at 83% for the first dose and 81% for the second dose.

High-level committee

Attributing the high incidence of measles in BBMP area to the low immunisation coverage, Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary (Health), said the health monitoring structure in BBMP is weak due to various reasons.

"We have seen that BBMP reported the highest number of dengue cases last year," he said.

"While primary health facilities in core BBMP areas are run and managed by the civic body, those in the new wards are managed with grants from the zilla panchayats and the Health Department. Apart from lack of coordination, the number of ASHAs and ANMs available are not proportionate to the population here. We are setting up a high-level committee to discuss the feasibility of either taking over BBMP-run facilities or handing over all the centres to BBMP. This will be sorted out in about two months and we will place a proposal before the cabinet," Mr. Gupta added.

ED arrests Aishwarya Gowda in cheating case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru, on Thursday, arrested Aishwarya Gowda under Section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for her alleged involvement in a money laundering case.

She was produced before the Special PMLA Court and remanded in 14-day ED custody.

The agency conducted searches at 14 locations related to Aishwarya Gowda and her accomplice on Thursday and Friday.

"During the search operations, various incriminating documents related to money laundering activities through movable and immovable properties and other digital devices have been found and seized.

In addition to the evidence, the Proceeds of Crime in the form of cash to the tune of ₹2.25 crore were also found and seized," the ED said in a statement.

Earlier, the ED initiated investigation on the basis of multiple FIRs registered by the various police stations of Karnataka against Aishwarya Gowda, her husband Harish K.N. and others under various sections of IPC/BNS.

The allegation in the FIRs is that Ms. Gowda, her husband and others entered into a criminal conspiracy to defraud and cheat several individuals by taking gold, cash and funds through bank accounts from them promising high rate of return.

However, the accused has neither returned the money nor given the promised return and also threatened the investors of dire consequences in case of further pursuance of the matter by claiming her proximity to various high-profile politicians, the release said.

Two killed in separate road accidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 55-year-old private firm employee was killed in a hit-and-run incident in Bhattarahalli on Old Madras Road on Friday night.

The victim, Kumar, a resident of Vinayaka Layout, was returning home from night shift when an unidentified vehicle knocked down his two-wheeler.

The severely injured Kumar was rushed to the hospital, where the doctor declared him 'brought dead'. The K.R. Puram traffic police have registered a case of hit and run and are investigating further to identify the vehicle.

In another incident, a 45-year-old cyclist was killed when a speeding car knocked him down in Devanahalli on Friday night.

The deceased, Nagappa, working in a private firm, was returning home from work. The Devanahalli traffic police have registered a case of death due to negligence and rash and negligent driving against the car driver.

Techie stabs girl for rejecting his proposal, arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police say the accused was married and has been allegedly harassing the girl who lived as a tenant in his house

The Banashankari police on Saturday arrested a 36-year-old software engineer for allegedly stabbing a 20-year-old student after she rejected his proposal.

The accused, Srikanth, was married and was working in a tech company in the city.

According to the police, the victim had rented out a portion of Srikanth's house. The accused allegedly started stalking the victim and proposed to her. The girl rejected his proposal and also complained about the same to his wife. She later vacated the house unable to bear the harassment.

A few days later the accused found the victim with a boy near the Deve Gowda petrol pump a few days later and confronted her. Amidst a heated argument, he allegedly stabbed her and escaped. The injured was rushed to a nearby hospital and the police were alerted. Based on the complaint, the police tracked down the accused and arrested him on the charges of attempt to murder.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, APR. 27	
RISE 06:01	SET 18:34
RISE 05:18	SET 18:11
MONDAY, APR. 28	
RISE 06:00	SET 18:34
RISE 06:07	SET 19:16
TUESDAY, APR. 29	
RISE 06:00	SET 18:34
RISE 07:01	SET 20:22

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	26
Mysuru	35	23
Bengaluru	34	24

Bengaluru Today
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevai.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
35°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds at few places.

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THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The PUBLIC at large are hereby notified that my clients intend to purchase below mentioned Immovable Property, from **P.S.LATHA,** 64 years, w/o. late P.N. Sathyamurthy, No.I706, 1st Floor, 6th Main, VIJAYANAGAR, BANGALORE – 40, AND it is represented that P.S.LATHA, has lost/misplaced the following original title deeds, viz., **(1)** GIFT DEED dated 20-09-2001, executed by G.V.RAMACHANDRAN in favour of G.R.VENKATAGIRI, bearing No.2543/2001-02, Book-I, Volume – 2342, at pages 58 to 63, in Sub Registrar, Vijayanagar, Bangalore, and **(2)** KHATA CLUBBING/AMALGAMATION ORDER issued by A.R.O. Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike. She has lodged a Police Complaint on 08-03-2025, before VIJAYANAGAR POLICE STATION, about the loss/misplacement of said documents. It if further represented that the predecessors-in-title viz., G.R.VENKATAGIRI, G.R.RAVI, G.R.BALASUBRAMANYAM, and G.R.PADMINI, had also lost the original POSSESSION CERTIFICATE dated 25-10-1963, and original SALE DEED dated 28-11-1980, document No.3603/1980-81, Book-I, Volume – 698, pages 131 – 133, in Sub Registrar, Srirampuram, Bangalore, registered on 04-12-1980. They had also lodged a Police complaint on 13-03-2007, for loss of said two documents before Vijayanagar Police Station and none of the documents were traced till date. Hence, the PUBLIC at large, including any Individual/s, Institution/s, Bank/s, Firm/s, etc., are hereby called upon to submit their claims, if any, as against the SCHEDULE PROPERTY or OBJECTIONS for sale of SCHEDULE PROPERTY by P.S.LATHA, AND the same may be informed/communicated to me along with supporting documents within **15 (Fifteen) days.** Failing which no claims shall be entertained thereafter, which shall be deemed to have been waived off.

SCHEDULE :

PROPERTY No.72/A, (Old Site No.706, of Hosahally) BBMP PID No.33-8-72/A, in Ward No.123 – VIJAYANAGAR, situated at 6th MAIN, VIJAYANAGAR, BANGALORE, measuring East to West : 35 feet, and North to South : 51 feet, and bounded on **EAST BY :** Site No.705, **WEST BY :** Site No.707, **NORTH BY :** Site No.743, and **SOUTH BY :** Road, which is having a building.

H.G. RAJASHEKAR, Advocate,
M/S. ABHIJIT ASSOCIATES,
No.8, PARK ROAD, Tulasi Thota,
BANGALORE – 53. Mobile 9845177722,
Land Line : 080 4113 9955

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ
ಮಲ್ಟಿಪರ್ಪಾಸ್ ಹಾಲ್, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಡಳಿತ ಭವನ,
ಬಿ. ರಾಚಯ್ಯ ಡಬ್ಬಲ್ ರೋಡ್, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 571313
Ph. : 08226-224370
Email : gokdom.dochamarajanagar@gmail.com

Sl.No. MWDC/Food Tender/CR-32/2025-26 Date : 22-04-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Minority Welfare Department, Chamarajanagar for the 2025-26th Academic Year invites Short term tender to supply Food and Maintenance material to Minority post matric hostels and APJ Abdul Kalam Residential School.

* Value of work in Rs. in lakhs 107.30
* EMD Rs. 3.22 lakhs
* Bid form available from 22-04-2025.
* Last date for bid submission 07-05-2025 at 5.00 pm.

The work details can be obtained from e-procurement website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from 22-04-2025 to 07-05-2025. For more information contact District Officer, Minority Welfare Department, District Administrative Building, Multipurpose Hall, 1st Floor, Chamarajanagar District - 571313, (Ph No. 7022054512).

Sd/- District Officer,
Minority Welfare Department,
Chamarajanagar

DIPR:CHANAGAR:31:2025-26

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SPORTSTAR INDIAN POSTER LEAGUE

DAY 37

Play now & start winning!

1. Which game, originally known as Poona, was popular in Pune, where its first rules were established in 1873?
2. Which Olympic event marked India's first-ever badminton medal, a bronze, at the 2012 London Games?
3. Which Indian badminton player became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic silver medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics and later claimed the 2019 World Championship title?

*T&C apply

Scan QR code or visit **newsth.live/SSIPLPA** to take the quiz. Get all three answers right and unlock a legendary Sportstar poster. **Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.**

Yesterday's poster: Sanath Jayasuriya

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Aathiradas.S, Palakkad | 2. Swamy Boda, Bengaluru | 3. Sunita Parameshwar Ganji, Virar

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
PALAKKAD DIVISION
Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination / Southern Railway / Palakkad invites E-TENDERS for the following works.
E-TENDER NOTICE No. PGT/OT/08/2025 Dated : 23.04.2025

Sl. No.	Name of work
1.	Divisional Engineer / East Jurisdiction - Proposed construction of Ballast Retaining wall at bridge approaches.
2.	Divisional Engineer/East Jurisdiction - Proposed guard rails at tracks under FOB and ROB.
3.	Sr. Divisional Engineer West / Palakkad section : Assistant Divisional Engineer / Kannur - Proposed guard rails at tracks under FOB and ROB.
4.	Shoranur-Mangalore section - Strengthening of Cross girder main angle & other members of Br. No. 1274 Dn (16 x 45.72 m G) at km 881/600 - 882/480
5.	Mangalore Central - Provision of OHE arrangements in pitline no. 2 and improvements to the pitline at Mangalore Central for maintenance of Vandhe Bharat rake.
6.	Pollachi : Upgradation / Improvements to stacking area of existing ballast siding to accommodate loading of 40 BOBYN.

Sl. No.	Approximate Cash Value in lakhs (Rs.)	Bid Security Amount Rs.	Tender Closing date on 15.00 hrs	Completion period in Months
1.	408.40	3,54,200/-	26/05/2025	Twelve
2.	68.33	1,36,700/-	15/05/2025	Six
3.	55.85	1,11,700/-	15/05/2025	Six
4.	534.14	4,17,100/-	26/05/2025	Six
5.	106.19	2,03,100/-	15/05/2025	Six
6.	287.74	2,93,900/-	26/05/2025	Twelve

(1) All the contracts on Works / goods / services will be subject to the New GST Act as applicable from time to time.
(2) Contractors / Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from **01.07.2017** onwards .
(3) For complete details of the above tenders please visit Web site **"http://www.ireps.gov.in"**.

Note : It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken in to account while submitting Tender.

Sr. Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination
Southern Railway / Palakkad.
(For and on behalf of the President of India)

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Smt. Subbalakshmamma W/o. Late. Nyana Chari and her son Sri. B. N. Jagadish Kumar are intending to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from its owner Sri. Harish Gadhamsetty S/o. Sri. Gadhamsetty Nagaraju, Residing at No. 45, 1st floor, Sri Sai Gardens Sannathammanahalli Village, K. R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore-560036.

If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential property bearing Site No. 225, E-Khata in form 9 & 11A bearing Panchayathi property No. 655/225, PID No. 150200101300 400729 in Layout Known as "Prasanthi Grand Villa Phase-IV" formed in converted land bearing Sy. Nos. 106, 108, 80/1C, 80/1D, 80/1E, 80/1F, 80/1G & 80/1H, Conversion order bearing No. ALN (A) (K&A) SR. 37/07-08, C/w 38, 40, 41, 26, 39/2007-08, dated 04-09-2007 Vide approved Layout Plan No. APA/LAO/16/2007-08 dated 03-10-2007, situated at Soppahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Measuring East to West 40 Ft and North to South 30 Ft. in all measuring 1200 Square Feet. and bounded on: East by : 30 Feet Wide Road, West by : Site No. 214, North by: Site No. 224, South by : Site No. 226.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B,
Advocates, #1010, 2nd Floor,
7th A Main Road, 1st Block,
Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034,
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 25-04-2025

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms/contractor for the following works. **Tender Notice No.: 08-2025-SrDENS Name of Work:** A. i-Proposal for vegetation and jungle cleaning at various railway colonies, offices, service buildings in WDS-DUD section (incl. SUR) two times in a year for two years under ADEN/W/SUR. ii-Proposal for Rag picking including deweeding beyond 50m from longest PF edge to station limit of both ends of stations under ADEN(T)SUR & ADEN/KLBG sub-division for two years. **Approximate Cost of the work:** Rs. 5,03,69,186.94 **Earnest Money:** Rs. 4,01,900.00 **Completion period of the work:** 24 Months **Maintenance Period:** NA. **Last date & Times of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website:** 12.05.2025 upto 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in:** 12.05.2025 at 15.30 hrs. **The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website www.ireps.gov.in.** ANJ-50

DOWNLOAD UTS APP FOR TICKETS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends to purchase the immovable property being a **Vacant residential site bearing No. 835**, measuring East to West: 30 Feet; North to South: 40 Feet; in all measuring 1,200 square feet, having E-PID No. 2772850915, Property bearing No. 809/835/56 comprised in the layout named as **"Upkar Residency"** upon the residentially converted land vide order No.BDS.ALN:SR(N)121/2002-03 in Survey No.56, situated at Ullalu Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District presently coming within the limits of the BBMP Ward No. 130 and bounded on the:

East by : Site No. 834;
West by : Site No. 836;
North by : Road;
South by: Site No. 983.

from its owners **Sri. JAYARAMA** S/o. Sri. Venkataravanappa, aged about 55 years and **Smt. SUMATHI JAYARAMA**, W/o. Jayarama, aged about 44 years, both residing at: No. 196, 4th Main Road, 3rd cross, Upkar Layout, Ullalu, Bengaluru – 560 091, If there are any claims or interests over the Property of whatsoever nature, the interested person/s, bank/s, creditor/s, financial institution/s, firm/s, statutory authorities or any others must present his / their / its claims /objections with the undersigned, in writing along with documentary proof, within **Seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this notice or else any claims thereafter shall not be considered and deemed to have been waived and /or abandoned.

Sd/-
V. Sanjay Krishna, Partner
TRIALBASE®
ADVOCATES
No. 1/1, Ground Floor, West Wing, Unity Buildings Annex, P. Kalinga Rao Road, (Mission Road), Bengaluru – 560 027.
info@trialbase.in

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Tender Notice No: E-GSU-ELE-2024-25-OT-14A dated 22.04.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Auction for the following work.

Name of work	Approx.Value
Conversion of existing 66 kV DC Hoody LILO Line infringing the proposed Quadrupling of Track near Hoody Halt Station in between Ch. No 337/800-337/900 to proposed 132kV Class 1000 Sqmm U.G. Cable	₹ 14,62,02,012.28

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 11.00 hrs on 14.05.2025
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer,
Gati Shakti Unit, Bengaluru
PUB/64/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the public that our client, **Sri Addagada Prasad Chowdary,** S/o Sri Hariprasad Rao, aged about 44 years, residing at Flat No. 502, Caesors Sion Apartments, Behind Garden City College, Kithaganur Main Road, Bangalore-560036, representing himself to be the absolute owner of the schedule property mentioned below, has reported the loss of certain original property documents, details of which are set out herein below.

Particulars of the Lost Documents:

1. **Original Agreement to Sell** dated 08.10.1997, executed by Mrs. Rathnamma & others in favour of Mr. Nazirul Haq Ajmal, registered as Document No. 7003/1997-98, Book I, Volume No. 1390, Pages 98 to 110, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Krishnarajapuram, in respect of land in Sy.No. 2/2, measuring 4 Acres 19 Guntas.
2. **Original Sale Deed** dated 31.10.2001, executed by Mrs. Rathnamma & others in favour of Mr. Nazirul Haq Ajmal, registered as Document No. 9654/2002-03, Book I, Volume No. 2691, Pages 45 to 60, in the Office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Krishnarajapuram, in respect of land in Sy.No. 2/6, measuring 4 Acres 19 Guntas.
3. **Original Power of Attorney** dated 26.12.2004, executed by Mr. Nazirul Haq Ajmal in favour of Mr. Mohammed Sirajuddin Ajmal, in respect of Sy.No. 2/6.
4. **Original General Power of Attorney** dated 08.10.1997, executed by Mrs. Rathnamma & others in favour of Mr. Fakruddin Ajmal and Mr. Badruddin Ajmal, registered as Document No. 348/1997-98, Book IV, Volume No. 89, Pages 152 to 155, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Krishnarajapuram, in respect of Sy. No. 2/2.

The above-mentioned documents have been lost, and in this regard, a police complaint was lodged on 25.04.2025 with the Avalahalli Police Station, Bangalore.

Through this public notice, it is requested that any person finding the aforesaid documents may kindly return them to our client at the address specified above, and shall be suitably rewarded.

The general public is also cautioned **not to deal with any person other than our client** with regard to the schedule property. Our client shall continue to exercise his ownership rights and rights of disposition over the schedule property based on certified copies of the lost documents.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Land measuring 4 Acres 23 Guntas, comprised in Survey No. 2/6 (Old Survey No. 2/2) of Konadasapura Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, and bounded as follows:

East by: Land in Survey No. 2/7, **West by:** Land in Survey Nos. 2/5 and 2/1, **North by:** Bangalore-Chennai Highway (NH5), **South by:** Private Property

Place: Bangalore
Date: 26.04.2025

MURULIDHARA. N (Advocate)
No. 163/2, Khajisonnenahalli,
Kannamangala Post,
Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore-560067
Mob: 9901514345

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

BMTC's new non-AC bus service from May 1

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has announced the launch of a new non-air-conditioned (non-AC) bus service route, effective from May 1, aimed at enhancing connectivity between Lingadhiranahalli and Shivajinagar.

Bus route
According to a BMTC release, the new bus will depart from Lingadhiranahalli at 9 a.m. daily and travel towards Shivajinagar, serving commuters along the following route: Sunkadakatte, Kamakshipalya, Magadi Road Toll Gate, and Vidhana Soudha.

The return service will commence from Shivajinagar at 5.30 p.m., following the same route back to Lingadhiranahalli.

This move is expected to benefit commuters, students, and residents in the western parts of the city by offering a direct and convenient travel option during peak hours.

KSRTC disburses compensation under welfare schemes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) disbursed compensation to the dependents of deceased and injured employees under its welfare schemes on Saturday.

For the first time, ₹25 lakh was granted to Sunilkumar B.D., a driver-cum-conductor from Arkalgud Depot in Hassan district, who lost his right leg in an accident. His medical expenses of ₹4.85 lakh were fully covered, and he was re-assigned to duty.

Under the Sarige Suraksha Accident Insurance Scheme, KSRTC gave ₹2 crore to the families of two deceased employees, with each receiving ₹1 crore. Since its inception in October 2022, 26 families have received ₹1 crore each.

Under the Employee Family Welfare Scheme, the KSRTC disbursed ₹3.10 crore to 31 families, giving each ₹10 lakh after revising the compensation from ₹3 lakhs to ₹10 lakh in November 2023.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy and KSRTC Vice Chairman Mohammed Rizwan Nawab handed over the cheques, advising beneficiaries to use the funds wisely.

Over 56,000 staff have also benefited from the KSRTC Arogya health scheme.

Skyrocketing gold prices hit sales ahead of Akshaya Tritiya

While major gold dealers have a steady customer base, smaller businesses feel the ripple effect

Reshmi Agrawal
Sophia Mary Mathew
BENGALURU

Gold retailers have extended numerous offers and discounts to mitigate the increased gold rates. FILE PHOTO

Retailers say customers' budget remains the same though gold rates have increased and more customers now prefer lightweight jewellery, marking a steep decrease in sales volume

Sudha Eeshwar, a school teacher, won't be buying gold for Akshaya Tritiya, which falls on April 30, this year. "I will probably buy it later when the prices drop."

As the price of gold hits new highs, many like Ms. Eeshwar are choosing to skip buying the yellow metal at this time of the year, when it is considered auspicious to buy gold. Jewellers, on the other hand, are leaving no stone unturned to attract customers despite the skyrocketing gold prices.

Gold retailers have extended numerous offers and discounts to mitigate the increased gold rates. "Akshaya Tritiya is an auspicious day. People buy gold to welcome Goddess Lakshmi into their house and for prosperity. So retail stores have done a lot of preparation in anticipation of the high gold rates," said Chetan Kumar Mehta, president of the IBJA and president of the Jewellers' Association of Bengaluru (JAB).

Discounts and gifts
Abaran, a jewellery house in the city, has offered a ₹500 discount on every gram of gold purchased. "It's a small contribution from our side on the occasion for the customers. ₹500 is a big amount- if you add it up for 200 gms of gold, it will make a big difference," said Sudhindra, manager of the M.G. Road branch.

"Because of the USA-China trade wars, gold prices have gone up even more. Nowadays, gold is the best investment to make. More than the automobile industry or the stock market, gold is more profitable. Hence, everyone wants to invest," explained T.A. Sharavana, president of the Karnataka Jewellers Association and MD of Shree Sai Gold Palace. "For Akshaya Tritiya, we are trying to give offers to customers because of the high gold rates. If a purchase of ₹50,000 of gold is made, customers will get a silver idol free. The idol has been blessed at the Ram temple in Ayodhya," he added.

Despite these incentives, customers are still apprehensive. "Have you seen the rates? They are so high! It costs 1 lakh for 10 gms. I am not buying this year," revealed Kamakshi Bansal, a homemaker.

Lightweight jewellery
Retailers also expressed awareness of the shift in purchasing patterns. "Sales value or sales turnover has increased, but sales volume has stayed the same. This is because customers' budgets have remained the same. Their budgets have not increased according to the gold rates," remarked Pratap Kamath, managing director of Abaran.

Antony Chirayath, general manager of JOSCO Jewellers, observed similarly, noting that despite the consistency in several customers, the amount of gold being sold has reduced. "This is because people prefer to buy lightweight jewellery."

Several vendors across the city have increased production and marketing of lightweight jewellery since its demand has gone up post the price hike. Mr. Chirayath said, "We have observed the preference for buying lightweight jewellery for the last two years. 18 karat gold jewellery sales have also increased."

Small businesses
Mr. Sharavana highlighted that while major gold dealers have a steady customer base, the price hike has heavily impacted smaller businesses in the gold industry.

"Unless there is an emergency, buyers are still looking for big names when it comes to purchasing gold, putting further pressure on small dealers that dot the neighbourhoods," he said.

Vijay Davanam, CEO of Davanam Jewellers, Kamaraj Road, said that they have been unable to apply any marketing strategies to attract customers.

"Our customers totally dropped," he said, while mentioning that they plan to put out limited offers on lightweight jewellery in the days leading up to the festival.

'Thyagaraja Vaibhavam' performance today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Natanam Institute of Dance will present 'Thyagaraja Vaibhavam', a thematic Bharatanatyam performance honouring Carnatic music legend Sadguru Thyagaraja Swamy.

The event will be held on Sunday at 5 p.m. at Jayarama Seva Mandali, 8th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru. Led by dancer Raksha Karthik and her disciples, the production promises a soulful storytelling through dance. Audiences will experience Thyagaraja's lyrical brilliance, and musical legacy through expressive choreography. Entry is free and open to all.

SUCI (Communist) to observe foundation day today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Committee of the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) (SUCI-C), will observe its 77th foundation fay with a public event on Sunday.

The programme is scheduled for 11.10 a.m. at Gandhi Bhavan, Kumarakrupa Road, near Shivananda Circle.

Subhash Dasgupta, senior leader and Central Committee Member, will deliver the keynote address.

Help Us Learn Sleep and Brain Health!

HUBDATA IIIT HYDERABAD — Call for patients who had Stroke (brain attack) for a Study on Sleep

NIMHANS, in collaboration with **IIIT-Hyderabad**, invites YOU to participate in our research assessing the effectiveness of **wearable devices for sleep monitoring.**

Why Does Sleep Matter?
Good sleep is essential for **memory consolidation** and **brain restoration. 70–80% of stroke patients** suffer from undiagnosed sleep disorders due to the lack of reliable and patient-friendly monitoring tools.

This study evaluates wearable devices to address this gap.

Who Can Participate?
- Aged between **30–65 years**
- Experienced **stroke** at least **3 months ago**
- **Patient with severe stroke and disability (bedridden) cannot participate**
- Have no other neurological, medical or psychiatric condition

What's in It for You?
- **Cognitive Skill Assessment:** Get a competency evaluation before the study.
- **Sleep Lab Experience:** Undergo polysomnography to assess sleep quality.
- **Wearable Device Trial:** Use wristbands and a heart rhythm monitoring patch for 1 week.
- Travel allowance and compensation for your time.

Contact Us Today!
Call/SMS: **96748 00735, 79750 22448**
Email: **nimhans.sleepresearch@gmail.com**
Available: **Monday–Saturday, 10 AM–4 PM**

The study is funded by Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India.

भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಶಾಖಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಗ್ರಾಹಕ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯ, ಆಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ವಿತರಣೆ, ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION, GOVT. OF INDIA
सत्यमेव जयते
ಮಾನಕ್ ಮಂಥನ್
MANAK MANTHAN
On
Amendment No. 1
Plywood for General Purposes(IS 303 : 2024)

Scan for Registration

Venue:
Conference Hall, Bureau of Indian Standards
Bengaluru Branch Office
Peenya First Phase, Opposite Jalahalli Metro Station
Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560058.

Date: 29 April 2025
Time: 9:30 am to 2:00 pm

Marks of Trust
22K916 For 22 Karat Jewellery
XXXXXX 6 Digit Alphanumeric Number (HUID)
IS/ISO 22000

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO 07/SBC/25 of 15.04.2025 Through E-tendering

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender (IREPS) for the following work.

SN	Name of work	Approx.Value
1	Bengaluru Dharmavaram section: Construction of boundary wall for a length of 26.2 km in connection with the work of increasing sectional speed from 110 kmph to 130 kmph. Maintenance period is 12 months (Two packet)	Rs. 21,55,83,667
2	Bengaluru - Sampige road section: Construction of boundary wall for a length of 14 km in connection with the work of increasing sectional speed from 110 kmph to 130 kmph. Maintenance period is 12 months (Two packet)	Rs. 11,51,97,379
3	Assistant Divisional Engineer/Yesvanthpur sub-division: Proposed supply of Potable water for a period of 2 years (Malleswaram Sampige road, Yesvanthpur-Yelahanka, Yelahanka Chintamani, Channasandra-Rajanukunte sections)	Rs. 1,08,00.000
4	Bengaluru Sampige road section: Proposed construction of RUB of size 7.5m x 4.65m in lieu of LC No. 48 at Km 81/500- 600 between Mallasandra and Gubbi stations by launching method (Double track). Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later. (Two packet)	Rs. 10,60,40,438
5	Chikka Banavara - Hassan section: Proposed new Bridge No. 39-A at Rly km 20/750 near Nelamangala station - RCC box size 1m x 5.0m x 4.25m by Box pushing method (Deposit work for Yettinahole project division No. 4). Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 2,07,65,877
6.	Bengaluru Salem section: Construction of FOB (Foot over Bridge) at Toppur (TPP) station. Maintenance period is 12 months	Rs. 2,20,81,473
7	Bengaluru- Salem section: Slope stabilization by wire netting of slopes in cuttings from km 50/ 500-600 between Toppur (TPP) and Muttampatti (MPC) stations in SSE/ PWAY/ DPJ(S) section. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 4,25,09,056
8	Chikka Banavara section: Strengthening of bank by providing standard width and improving drainage at isolated locations from 3/870 to 79/530 (SL) for a length of 16.65 km. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 1,59,11,060
9	Divisinal Engineer/ South/Bengaluru Sec :Cess repair/ widening work in connection with the work of Bengaluru-Salem section sec: Strengthening of bank by providing standard width and improving drainage at isolated locations from km 68/100 to 143/400 SL for a length of 17.26 km". Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 1,62,13,883
10	Divisinal Engineer/South/Bengaluru sec: Manufacturing, supply and stacking of machine crushed track ballast at PRNT (Periya nagathunnai) depot including loading in connection with the work of Bengaluru-Salem section sec: Complete track renewal (p) of existing 52kg rails on 52kg PSC of 1540 nos/km with 60kg/90 UTS rails and 60kg wider base sleeper of 1660/km for a length of 20.2 km from km 45/000-54/000, 55/100-900 and 56/100-66/500 (SL) in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Dharmapuri section	Rs. 2,74,30,830
11	Chikka Banavara section : Through Ballast Recoupment (TBR) for a length of 7.473 km in the loop lines of Assistant Divisional Engineer/ Kunigal section	Rs. 87,39,091
12	Bengaluru Salem section: Slope stabilization by widening of slope of cuttings from km 33/100-600, 40/250-450 and 45/750-950 in SSE/PWAY/TPP between Karuvalli (KVLR) and Muttampatti (MPC) stations. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period	Rs. 7,91,18,735

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 12.05.2025**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-Ordination, Bengaluru
PUB/55/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE
AGRAM - POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in

Tender Notice

Sealed quotations are invited for supply and installation of LG 1.5 ton 5 star AC **at Army Public School ASC Centre & College (APS ASC C&C)**. Tender Enquiry/Form (also uploaded on website www.apsasc.edu.in (procurement) for reference) can be collected from school office after payment of Rs.250/- (Demand Draft in favour of APS ASC C&C) from 26 Apr 2025 to 02 May 2025 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date and time to submit filled tender form is 03 May 2025 at 1130 hrs.

Presiding Officer,
For School Management.

State urged to speed up work on water-swap treaty with Maharashtra

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
BELAGAVI

Various organisations have urged the Karnataka government to work towards signing a water-swap agreement with the Maharashtra government, to share the Krishna waters.

Members of various associations, under the Central Committee of Kannada Organisations, held a meeting in Belagavi earlier in the week to urge the State government to initiate discussions with Maharashtra on a Krishna water-sharing treaty. They have written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok, with a demand to speed up work on a water-swap agreement with the neighbouring State.

CM's recent letter

"Some leaders from both States have been talking about a water-swap treaty for decades. Mr. Siddaramaiah wrote to his counterpart, Devendra Fadnavis, on April 1, requesting the release of 4 tmcft of Krishna waters. But even after three weeks, there has been no response from Maharashtra. It may help the case of the border districts if the Chief Minister leads an all-party delegation, including Ministers and prominent leaders from the border districts, to Mumbai," the committee said.

Looming scarcity: A view of the Malaprabha riverbed that has almost dried up near Killa Torgal village near Ramdurg in Belagavi district. The Malaprabha is a tributary of the Krishna. P.K. BADIGER

There is a severe scarcity of water in the Krishna and villages along the border in Belagavi, Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Raichur, and Yadgir districts are suffering. Officials say water available in the Krishna riverbed is enough only for 15 days. However, this can be mitigated if Maharashtra releases 4 tmcft of water immediately.

In its letter to both, the committee said there is nearly 50% water in Maharashtra's reservoirs at Koyna and Warana and wondered if Maharashtra was not releasing water since it wants to insist on a water-exchange treaty. "If that is the case, Mr. Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister and Irrigation Minister D.K. Shivakumar and others should move ahead and make it a reality. It should not be seen as a matter of prestige."

Various organisations of Belagavi have written to Siddaramaiah and Ashok stating that a non-partisan bilateral pact is in the interest of both States

Committee leaders such as Ashok Chandaragi, Ramesh Sontakki, Shivappa Shamarant, and Moinuddin Makandar have signed the letter.

Background of the issue

There has been an informal agreement between the two States about releasing water for the drinking supply. Maharashtra has released 4 tmcft of water during the summer months from its dams over Koyna and Warna rivers, both tributaries of the Krishna. Karnataka has paid for it, varying from ₹1 crore to ₹2 crore per tmcft, irrigation officials say. Except for 2019, when there were huge floods, around 4 tmcft of water has flown in the Krishna every year since 2004 in the off-monsoon season. Over 70 tmcft (eight lakh cusecs) of water flew down the Krishna that year, causing widespread flood damage.

However, in 2016, Maharashtra proposed that Karnataka repay the favour by releasing water from its dams to the drier areas of south-east Maharashtra like Jat taluk. They want Karnataka to release water from the Tubachi-Babaleshwar lift-irrigation project in Jamkhandi.

Engineers in the Karnataka Water Resources Department say detailed and further discussions are needed to finalise such a treaty. "The Tubachi-Babaleshwar project is around 50 km from the inter-State border. Laying a pipeline to the border will cost at least ₹500 crore as per 2023 estimates. The cost can be halved if Maharashtra shares it, and if there is an agreement to release water to *en route* villages in Karnataka. But there is no assurance from the Maharashtra engineers about cost sharing," said a senior engineer, who has participated in joint irrigation coordination committee meetings. Other suggestions include the joint construction of small reservoirs to hold water for emergencies.

District in-charge Minister Satish Jarkiholi has said he was in favour of a water-exchange agreement to benefit both States. "I am willing to initiate a dialogue and visit Maharashtra and talk to all concerned," he said.

Need of the hour is not war but strengthening of security in J&K: CM

'We are not in favour of war. We want peace and security for the people,' he says, regretting the failure of the Centre to live up to the trust reposed by tourists in it on providing security

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Answering a question on calls for waging war on Pakistan in the wake of the attack on tourists at Pahalgam, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said there is no need for a war, but strict measures to strengthen security in Jammu and Kashmir should be taken. "We are not in favour of war. We want peace and security for the people. Centre should take steps to tighten security," he said on Saturday.

Emphasising the need for tightening security in the State that attracts tourists, Mr. Siddaramaiah recalled the Pulwama incident in Kashmir that claimed the lives of 40 army personnel earlier and said the Centre should have been very careful and taken necessary steps.

"There was an intelligence failure and security failure," the Chief Minister said, while regretting the failure of the Centre to live up to the trust reposed by the tourists in it on providing them security. "Even if they take steps now, can the lives of 26 people be brought back?" he asked. He said he had sent Minister for Labour Santosh Lad to bring back stranded Kannadigas from Kashmir.

Listing priorities: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking to reporters in Mysuru on Saturday. M.A. SRIRAM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reported absence from the all-party meeting called by the Centre to discuss the terrorist attack in Kashmir came in for criticism from Mr. Siddaramaiah.

When reporters brought to his notice that the Prime Minister was campaigning in election-bound Bihar, Mr. Siddaramaiah wondered if it was important for Mr. Modi to attend the all-party meeting or participating in the campaign for Bihar elections before accusing him of "fooling" people.

'Will abide by Centre'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said Karnataka will abide by the Centre's directions on sending back Pakistani nationals.

Fielding reporters queries in Mysuru on Saturday, Mr. Siddaramaiah said he was not aware of the number of Pakistanis in different parts of the State, but added that there could be more in Bengaluru than in any part of the State. He said the State would send back the Pakistani nationals and inform the Centre about the same.

Mevani calls upon people to open 'Samvidhan Shakhas' to counter RSS

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Accusing the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) of resolving to defeat the Constitution, MLA from Gujarat Jignesh Mevani has called upon people to form 'Samvidhan Shakhas' to counter the RSS and its *shakha*s.

Mr. Mevani, addressing the 'Samvidhana Samrakshakara Samavesha', a convention of the 'protectors of the Constitution' in Davangere on Saturday, accused the RSS and the BJP of having resolved to defeat B.R. Ambedkar's Constitution.

"The only way to oppose the efforts of the RSS is to launch Samvidhan Shakhas against RSS *shakhas*. You should start groups in your districts, taluks, and hoblis to oppose the RSS," he called upon the people gathered at the convention.

Seeking action: Jignesh Mevani, MLA from Gujarat, speaking at the 'Samvidhana Samrakshakara Samavesha' in Davangere on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tamil Nadu MP and former IAS officer Sasikanth Senthil called upon people to join the efforts to protect the Constitution, which has to be safeguarded for the benefit of future generations.

Noted economist Parakala Prabhakar said, "For the last 100 years, there has been a group of people working against the constitutional values. I was worried about the absence of an army to defend the Constitution. Now, after seeing the gathering here, my worry has gone," he said.

Writer Baragur Ramachandrappa, who inaugurated the convention, said the true patriots are those who respect the Constitution, fight for equality, and work towards ensuring harmony. During the freedom struggle, he said, both Ashfaqulla Khan and Ram Prasad fought together, and the British hanged them on the same day, which, he said, showed "the character of true India". Referring to the recent terror attack in which tourists were killed, he said, "The developments that occurred after the incident exhibited the true spirit of India. The local Muslim people came to the rescue of tourists. This is true India."

Noor Sridhar of Eddelu Karnataka, one of the organisers of the event, said the objective of the convention was to motivate people to join the campaign to defend the Constitution. "We have set a goal of preparing at least one lakh citizens to actively defend the Constitution," he said.

'Janivara' issue: High Court issues notice to State government, KEA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Saturday ordered issue of notice to the State government and the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on a PIL petition questioning the actions of officials in compelling some students to remove their 'janivara' ('sacred threads') before allowing them to enter the examination hall to write the Common Entrance Test (CET) held on April 17.

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice K.V. Aravind, passed the order on the petition filed by the Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Mahasabha, Bengaluru.

"If what is stated is found to be correct, the allegations made in the petition are prone to assume serious dimensions about the violation of cultural-cum-religious rights of the students," the Bench observed while taking note of the allegations that some students were forced to remove their 'sacred threads' which were worn by the students as part of their ancient religious and cultural practices.

Senior advocate Sriranga S., appearing along with advocates Sumana Naganand and Ashwini N. Ravindra, contended that incidents of compelling students to remove 'janivara' occurred particularly at three centres in Shivamogga, Dharwad, and Bidar districts. A first information report was registered with the police in Sagar town of Shivamogga district in connection with one such incident on April 21, Mr. Sriranga said.

Meanwhile, it was pointed out in the petition that people belonging Brahmin, Kshatriya, and Vaishya communities wore 'janivara' as part of their religious practices.

The petitioner also sought direction to the government to formulate guidelines for frisking candidates by officials at the time of entering examination centres and to initiate stringent action against officials who prevented students from entering examination halls to write CET.

When the senior advocate sought a direction to the State government and the KEA to conduct re-examination for those who were victims of such illegal act of forcing removal of their 'janivara,' the Bench said that the petitioner would have to substantiate allegations by providing necessary materials and information like affected students, etc., as no student was before the court.

However, the Bench said that "what weighs with the court is the averment made in the petition that those students who refused to remove 'janivara' were not permitted to enter the examination hall and deprived of appearing for the examination."

Award for Bheemanna Khandre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The All-India Veerashiva Mahasabha, Kerala unit, has conferred the 'Basavarathna Puraskaram' to centenarian former Minister Bheemanna Khandre.

A release said that the award was in honour of his initiative to amalgamate Kerala Veerashaiva Sabha with the All-India Veerashaiva Mahasabha when he was the mahasabha president.

"The award is a token of gratitude from the Kerala people for his care and consideration," the release added.

On May 4

His son and Karnataka's Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre will receive the award on behalf of Mr. Bheemanna Khandre during the Basava Jayanti celebration conference to be held on May 4 at Thrissur. Kerala's Higher Education Minister R. Bindhu, Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala and mahasabha national secretary Renuka Prasanna and others will attend.

'Rohith Vemula Act': Group writes to CM with suggestions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the wake of the Karnataka government setting in motion the drafting of the 'Rohith Vemula Act', the Campaign for Rohith Vemula Act, a voluntary group, has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar suggesting ways and measures to strengthen the proposed legislation, while welcoming the move.

The letter suggested that the government open up the drafting process in compliance with the pre-legislative consultation policy of 2014. It pointed out that the UPA-2 government followed the same to frame the laws and implementation of rules.

"Accordingly, extensive consultations must be organised on this draft," said lawyer and activist Vinay Sreenivasa, who has been part of the campaign.

The letter also demanded that while providing protection to backward classes and minority students, special provisions should be made in the proposed legislation with respect to students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It pointed out that students belonging to SC and ST communities have historically experienced more discrimination and harassment.

"Opinion of students, student organisations, educationalists, and Dalit organisations of the State should be sought for this Act," the letter demanded.

The Campaign for Rohith Vemula Act involving Dalit organisations, student groups, intellectuals, academicians, lawyers, social workers, and journalists, among others, has been demanding drafting and implementation of the law for the last one year.

Recently, following a letter from the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Mr. Siddaramaiah promised that his government would enact the law.

DIPR rolls out digital advertising guidelines

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said that the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) has rolled out Karnataka Digital Advertising Guidelines to create awareness about government schemes and policies through digital media and digital advertising.

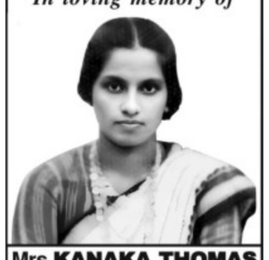
"In a first of its kind initiative in the country, the Karnataka government has started empanelling digital media entities and digital advertising agencies," the Chief Minister has said, as per a release from the CMO.

"The nature of the scope of digital media has changed over the years... Digital advertising has become more influential than traditional media and reaches far more people. The Karnataka government has brought out digital advertising guidelines to facilitate the use of digital media and advertising for communication," the press release said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

16th ANNIVERSARY
In loving memory of



Mrs.KANAKA THOMAS
Fondly remembered by
T.Joseph (Son)
Dr.Hemalatha (Daughter-in-law)
Rohit & Devina, Rohan & Nivetha,
Harvey Joseph & Ryan Joseph

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Shri. K. S. JAYARAMAN
(Retd. BALCO)
DOB: 01.01.1938 - DOD: 27.04.2015
10 years of your physical absence - yet, Beloved Appa, You are always With us and Blessing us from within...!!!
Loved and Cherished By:
Wife: Smt. Sundari Jayaraman
Son: Shri. Harish Jayaraman
Near & Dear Ones
Phone: +91-44-2495-2889

ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
Chamarajanagar Institute of Medical Sciences
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Sy. No. 124, Yadapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chamarajanagar - 571313
Email : directorcimscrnagara@gmail.com
Tel : 08226-226701, Website : https://cimscrnagara.karnataka.gov.in

No. CIMS/Tender/Drugs/Cat/A/163/2024-25 Dated : 19-04-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 Rule 2000 for the supply of Drugs / Surgicals (Category - A) to the teaching hospitals of this Institution. Interested Tenderers are informed to apply the tender on or before dated 23.05.2025 at 5.00 p.m. by paying E.M.D.

If, the last date for submission of tender declared as Government Holiday, the next working day shall be treated as last date. No separate Notification in this regard will be issued. Interested tenderers may contact the college authorities for furthers information.

Sd/- Dean and Director,
Chamarajanagara Institute of Medical Sciences
Chamarajanagar.

DIPR:CHANAGAR:29:2025-26

Classifieds

thehinduads.com

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

ALLIANCES INVITED from Well Educated Hindu Grooms for a Doctor, Neurosurgeon, MBBS, DrNB, 31, Fair, Slim and Affluent. Contact: Sridhar, Dubai +971507744192

WARM, BEAUTIFUL, 26, 160cm, polished, UK–raised professional. Affluent Nadar family of doctors. Seeks compatible groom. Call/WA 9345634365

HANDSOME AND well educated boy from affluent family, India/abroad, sought for Keralite Nair girl, 25 years, pretty, modern, graduate, 165 cm, school/college in USA/UK. Call: +971507744192

DIVORCEE

WARM, ATTRACTIVE, 37, 159cm, UK–educated, Dubai–based professional from progressive, Army family. Seeks mature, compatible partner. Language/caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

DOCTOR

MUSLIM DOCTOR girl, 28/165, Gynaecology PG. Preferably PG Doctors: 9846015055, Trivandrum.

Hindu Naidu 28 years Girl MD Pediatrics Final year settled in Mysore. Ph. No. 9535652971.

Hindu, 25Y doing MS (ENT) Chennai. Seeks Doctor Grooms. Caste No Bar. Contact: 9677199925.

REDDY 34/165CM MBBS, MS Seeks Suitable Groom from Chennai / Dubai / Singapore CNB 8925640111

MUDHALIYAR 26Y Fair MBBS Seeks Doctors or Any Suitable Groom Chennai or Any Places.Cast No Bar:7358638363

SEEKING NEVER married suitable PG Doctor Groom for a P.G Doctor M.S.(O.G), Reddy girl, born 1990, employed in Chennai. Contact WhatsApp: 9962548166

DOCTOR GIRL 32/156, MD, DM seeks suitable groom. Contact: 9497168001, 9447493034

Fair, Smart, Pretty, cultured homely Doctor Girl 35/165 MD, Cardiac Anesthesiologist Reputed Hospital, Chennai from affluent family of Doctors, Father Cardiac Surgeon from Kerala based in Chennai. Mother from Tamilnadu. Looking for PG Doctor & Engineer grooms from good families.
98400 50381 / 98409 85383

Caste No Bar, Doing MD Anesthesia, 26, Fair, 162 cm, looking suitable Doctor / CA groom, Father - Christian, Mother - Brahmin, Mobile-9600076975 / 7397666544

KANNADA

HINDU BRIDE 30/161 B.E., LL.B. (Hons.) Advocate Swathi Thulam Vokkaliga Gowda seeks Virtuous Independent working Groom from an Ethical Family and settled in Chennai. Email: mailgpsr@gmail.com

HINDU VOKKALIGA Gowda 30, BE from Coimbatore seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 97917 68175.

MALAYALAM

ATTRACTIVE, CARING, 29, 170cm, UK–educated, UAE–based, open–minded Catholic professional. Seeking compatible partner. Call or WA 9345634365.

NAMBIAR GIRL, 29yrs B.com, BL (Hons.), LLM, practicing Advocate at High Court, from a reputed family at Thalassery and settled in Chennai, seeks proposals from well educated professionals, preferably working at Chennai, with good family values. Contact No: 9895147168

NAIR GIRL 24/150 cm MBA Finance IT testing Visagam - native Palakad Chennai settled seeks suitable Nair / Menon / Pillai boy. Ph: 80150 11536

HINDU GIRL 38, MSc Phd Scientist, working abroad, caste no bar. Malappuram, 9447257594, 9946492247

EZHAVA GIRL 27/157cm Rohini,Sudhajatagam Work in Ireland Seeks Prof Qlfd groom Work in Ireland. 9962512968

NAIR GIRL from Ernakulam Kerala, 31 Yrs / 161 CM wheatish complexion doing DM in hematology (Final Year) in Delhi seeks Doctors / Professionals. Contact : 8089584220/ 9249920550.

MALAYALAM

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
Professionally qualified **Girl, 29/163 (LLB & LLM** abroad), Ashwathy, employed with an int'l organisation (EU). Accomplished and charming. Affluent Family (Malayali) settled in Delhi. Parents seek proposals from Hindu highly educated and well settled professionals.
Ph: 8800368536

NRI

MBBS, USMLE 3 completed. Intern in Qatar. Plan US Residency in 2026. 25yr 162cm Tamil Reddy Girl seeks Doctor /Engr USA Settled. Caste No Bar. 00974-77814974.

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, CSI, Age 31, MBA, HR at Chennai, interested in emigrating. Contact: 8138900530

TAMIL MUSLIM, Age 22, MBA, Upper middle class family, Need a guy who follow the principles of Islam. Call: 8138900575

✔ **TAMIL MUSLIM girl 38 yrs, seeks employed, qualified, Unmarried Tamil Muslim Groom. 9444235779**

CHRISTIAN, PROTESTANT, MS, Software Engineer at MNC, Family income 1 crore, Ready to relocate. Contact: 8138900557

LOOKING FOR Christian Bridegroom for the girl working in USA start-up aged 26. End time message. 8939250457

CSI TAMIL, God Fearing, Homely, B.Tech., PGDM (XLRI), 25 Years, Startup, Parents seek alliance from suitable God Fearing, Well qualified and employed Grooms with clean habits Mobile/WhatsApp: 7200309111 / 9444002036

RC, CNB, 26yrs, M.Sc, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9360732728/ 9962121959

CHRISTIAN BE 35/164cm Handsome BC Girl Working CTS (SWE) in USA H1B Visa seeks good looking groomworking with SWE/Professional in USA. CNB. CT: 81488 25673 Brokers Excuse

RC 40/PHD /Scientist in USA seeks unmarried Christian groom working in USA. gladia@gmail.com, 9840715492

CSI NADAR, 24yrs, M.Sc, Vey Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks suitable Groom 9962121959/ 9360732728

RC CHRISTIAN Nadar unmarried fair Bride 35/170 ME Software Enggr. seeks BC/FC unmarried groom. Ct. 9886888775

CHRISTIAN AD Girl 30Yrs/167cm MBBS MD Radiology (Govt. Kovai, Ooty) good looking seeks Doctor / Any Govt Groom. CT: 9578815447.

HINDU, NADAR, Age 26, MD, Doctor, Rich and Affluent family, Looking for a nadar doctor Groom. Ct: 8137003550

HINDU, CASTE no bar, Age 26 , M.Sc, Banking Professional, Family doing business, Expect a man from decent family background. Ct: 8138900316

HINDU NADAR – Dr. Ramya MS Retina Surgeon Age 32, Looking for similar degree or any post graduate – Ct: 9840038499, 9600227299

HINDU NADAR girl, BC, Tamilnadu, ME, age 30, DOB 4/8/1994, Ht 167 cms, wt. 62 kg, Thiruvathirai, Mithunam, doing 1st year PhD in IIT Kharagpur, Calcutta. Upper middle class seeks any BC, well qualified and settled groom. Ct: 96265 15511

CASTE NO bar, 26yrs, MBBS, MD, Preferred Doctors & Civil Services Groom Contact: 6385293227

MUDALIAR 25 BE/MBA 164cm, Working, Good Look well Settled Family Seeks Groom CNB Ct.8778514465/ 7200866346

TAMIL VISHWAKARMA, M.Tech, Employed in IT–MNC, Bangalore, 25 yrs 9months, 163 cms, 18 LPA, Star Pooratathi, well educated family, seeks suitable groom. Ph & Whatsapp: 9445862897. Mail senthiltasl@gmail.com.

ADIDRAVIDAR AGE 26, BE Pvt Salary 40000 / Well Settled Wants Suitable Groom. 8122289871/ 9444139323

DOCTOR MD 37yrs 165cm divorcee seek Tamil speaking well settled groom from Chennai/Bengaluru preferably non–smoker&teetotaler Ph: 9445018192

TAMIL

HINDU DIVORCEE, 44 yrs, Very fair, Good Looking, PQ, No child, Seeks qualified groom CNB. 9080169045

HINDU SC AD, 33, BE, MBA, Employed, Slim, Good Looking, Chennai BasedElite Family , Seeking well Educated,Well Placed Groom From Elite Family.Cast no Bar. Ct: 96771 13040.

LOOKING FOR a groom below 41yrs for divorced Hindu Nadar graduate getting 1–L Pm in a govt job 9443156344

HINDU, 24 Manai Chettiyar, 24 Yrs, B.Com, MBA, Administrative Professional, Looking for Any Chettiyar Groom. Contact: 8138900652

HINDU, MARAVAR, Age 31, B.Tech, IT Professional, Income 40 Lakhs, Looking for a graduated Groom. Contact: 8137003549

HINDU, YADAVA, 31 Yrs, MBBS, Doctor at Chennai, Family doing business. Call: 8137003548

RICH MUDALIYAR, 25yrs, M.Tech, Elite business family in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9962791888

HINDU NADAR, 26yrs, BE, 1.5 Lakhs/ pm, Well Educated Family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9841329471

CASTE NO Bar, 40yrs, B.Tech,MS, Industrialist Business Family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

MUDALIAR (CNB): 29/ V.Fair, MBBS, MS,Doctor, Pvt.Hosp, Chennai, Elite Family, Seeks groom – Doctor/ Eng – 8925019776

MUDALIAR: 25/ V.Fair & Beautiful, B. Tech, MS (UK), Textile Business, Chennai, Elite Family, seeks groom – Business / Abroad – 9962530015

SOZHIA VELLALAR Slim fair 26/170 BE, 18 LPA, Seeking professional groom from Tamil family. Ct: 9025400750

✔ **CHETTIAR 37** yrs 157cms M.S (USA) Well educated family seeks suitable groom from same or equal community. Ct.9994338914

HINDU MARUTHUVAR CA Auditor MNC 32 / 158cm fair legally divorced CNB Chennai seeks groom. Ct 9600055160

SEEKING WELL qualified groom for my daughter (Hindu – Mudaliar) 28/ 170 cm, UX Designer / 15LPA . Ph.no : 9486380013

HINDU/ SC/ Tamil/ March 93/ BE/ IRS–IT Seeks Groom from IAS and Allied Services / MD,MS, SS–9042261465

SENGUNTHAR 24YRS, 150 cms Mirugashisham BE Software Engineer in Chennai seeks a well–educated (B.E) groom with clean habits, working in Chennai. 9952954930/ 8668190730

DEVENDRAKULAVELALAR 26/157 MBBS UK GMC Regd Seeks Suitable Doctor Groom. Send BHP. Ct: sams7796@gmail.com

CASTE NO bar. Chennai based Affluent Good looking Mudaliar Girl 29, is seeking for a Groom from a good family background and family values. Ct : 89258 19448

HINDU SC/AD 30 M.B.B.S, fair star-Ashwini well settled Chennai seeks prof qualified Doctors, Govt officers and engineers from same community. Ph:9840210047 / 9080281136

HINDU PILLAI 40 Fair MBA working in MNC, DUBAI. seeks Suitable Groom CNB. Email: rasnan1948@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR a suitable Bridegroom for a vanniar girl, aged 27yrs, B.Com B.L. Hons with ACS & employed in a big Corporate. Similar profile or other Professionals with good family background based in Chennai preferred. ct: 9003199945/9003035547

✔ **PARENTS OF** US Working Bride (From TN) 29yrs / 165cm, Ph.D, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Hindu Naidu Seeks Telugu / Tamil Groom working in US. Ct : +91 99449 33737,Email Id: sspssr22@gmail.com

✔ **TAMIL VISHWAKARMA BE MS (USA) 27yrs 158cms Software Engr (California). Seeks Suitable Groom in the US. Ph: 94990 15513**

HINDU, CASTE no bar, Age 31, M.Tech completed, Developer at MNC, Income 15 Lakhs, Looking for Educated Groom. Ct 9072777822

HINDU, PILLAI, Age 24, Studied Masters Management, Doing Business, Income 12 Lakhs. Ct 8138901337

MUDALIAR 24/160 Fair Beautiful, BE, SWE, Wipro, 600000.PA, Affluent Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

HINDU, CASTE no bar, Age 24, MBA, IT professional at Chennai, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138901281

HINDU NADAR pretty looking girl from an affluent family 31/156 cms, MBA, seeks well settled groom from affluent family. CT: 9486355500.

TAMIL

HINDU, VANNIYA Kulashatriya Naicker, Age 26, B.Arch, IT professional, Family Income 50 Lakhs. 8137003516

VANNIYAR, 25 BA LLB, doing LLM OP Jindal, Hastham with Raagu Kethu seeks Chennai based groom – PG degree with good job or Business people from well settled family. 9444063969

FATHER – SC (DKV), Mother–FC, 1980, B.A.,First Marriage. Seeks Any Caste Unmarried/Widower, Degree, Diploma, Government, Private or Business. Chennai. Whatsapp: 9003173511

HINDU ASWINI, Mesam 30 yrs/ 161cm MBBS MD DNB Pulmonology,seeks Doctor/ IPS/ IAS groom. Call: 98401–25521

MBBS MD DR. TN Govt Chennai Hindu Naidu Elite Family fair slim 165 cm 23–02–90 magaram uthiradam 4 seeks Dr, Class A officer, Business Groom. Any Hindu FC/BC. 9841743266.

BRAHMIN VADAMA parents invites alliance for Good looking young widow in mid forties /MSc / 163/ Fair / well settled entrepreneur, no encumbrance from Chennai based doctors, engineers , professionals of similar stature(subsect no bar) Brother : 7416442737

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

SMART, HANDSOME, 37, 175cm, MEng (US), in Big Tech ($400K+), broad–minded S.Indian family. Seeks warm, compatible US–based bride. Language/caste no bar. Call or WA 9345634365.

AGE–43/178, ARYA VYSYA, work – Mumbai, Never Married, veg, Good salary, prop in chennai, Ph:9841551772

WANTED BRIDE for divorced Naidu doctor groom aged 36 yrs residing at chennai caste no bar marriage brokers do not disturb ph : 9884724161

AGE 49 Divorcee Issueless, Company Secretary. Seeks Bride . Cast no Bar Contact : 9360167989

DOCTOR

WANTED BRIDE
HINDU Family Kerala, for **MBBS Student,** 3rd Year Final at **MALAYSIA.** Age : 25 years. Height 173 cm looking MBBS, **Professionals** or **Reputed Family Girls 21 to 24 years.**
Mob (Wapp) 98471 50067.

MALAYALAM

NAIR, 41, BE, MS(US), Chennai, Chadayam (Shudha Jatakam) worked in US(15yrs) seeks good fmly educated bride, pref PG, from Chn/B'lore. Contact: 9940573281, 9840378555

EZHAVA BOY 31/170cm, Avittam, Sudhajathagam Work in US, Seeks Prof.qualified bride work in USA.9962512968

Looking for Professionally Qualified Nair Girl for a 28 yr old Nair Boy / 180 cm/ Rohini/ doing 2nd year MD Community Medicine/ from Kerala. Contact: 9447451466 / 9446845818 Email : drsvinodkumar@gmail.com

NRI

TAMIL HINDU 54 yrs, 173cm BSc, MBA, IT Proff, Australia, Divorce. Seeks Bride, WhatsApp: 61422909407

GERMAN–SPEAKING INDIAN bride. Boy: DOB 1990, 168cm, fair, 58 kg, BE (Mech), MS, consultant, engineering company, Munich, Germany. 9840925561

TAMIL

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, Chennai. CT–9500188067

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar 28 MS USA seeks same community bride with H1B Visa, MS student or from any country Willing to relocate to USA 9382266099

CSI TAMIL, God Fearing, Handsome, Clean habits, B.Tech., PGDM, 28 Years, MNC, Parents seek alliance from suitable God Fearing, Homely, Well qualified and employed Brides from good families Mobile/WhatsApp: 7200309111 / 9444002036

HINDU, GOUNDER, Age 30, Divorced without children, MBA, Business, Income 1 Crore, Well settled family, Interested can call: 8138009214

HINDU, NAICKER, 28 Yrs, B.E studied, Engineer, Income 30 Lakhs, Looking for a Bride from good family background. Contact: 8138009139

MUDALIYAR, 32/180, Rishabam/ Kiruthigai, M.Com, MBA, 1.75Lpm seeks Bride from Decent Family. 9841233083.

HINDU NADAR, 31yrs, BE, 2 Lakhs pm, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 9841329471

NAIDU, MAY 2000 born, MBBS MD Seeks MBBS MD Studying Bride. Contact: 94430 50715, 94879 00758

RE–MARRIAGE MUDALIYAR 58 Govt Service own house Seek bride 45–50 yrs Any OC / BC. Ct: 89392 60200

MUDALIAR, 37/172.5, BE, 25 LPA working as a Software Consultant in reputed MNC in Bangalore. Warmly welcoming a bride from humble, cultured, educated & traditional family. Ph: 9994517104

AGAMUDAIYAR UTHIRADAM 34/180 B.Tech, TCS, Hyderabad, 2Lpm, seeks Equally Qualified bride, Caste No Bar. Contact: 8220984182

AGAMUDAIYAR, UTHIRAM/KANNI 35/180, BE, HRM, Job at Canada, Canadian Citizen, Seeks BE,Nursing, any degree bride.CNB. Ct:9442993042

TAMIL VISWAKARMA, 39/179cm, Chithirai, Kanni, B.E, MBA., Unmarried seeks educated Partner. Caste no bar. Ct: 9944097021

Hindu 36 years SCA, Divorcee Looking for Never Married Bride. Contact: 8525852104.

HINDU, CASTE no bar, Age 28, B.E, MBA, Risk Analyst at MNC Bank, Income 20 Lakhs, well settled family. Call: 8138900537

HINDU, MUTHARAIYAR, Age 34, B.E completed, Engineer, Family doing business, interested can call: 8138900523

HINDU, VANNIYAR, Age 27, Diploma, Graphic Designer at Thanjavur, caste no bar. Contact: 8138901171

MUDALIAR 34 Divorce, ME, 22L PA 178cm Smartlook well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB 8778514465/ 7200866346

CASTE NO Bar, 27yrs, B.Tech, Running Own business in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 6385293227

Looking for a well educated, slim, fair Bride from a decent Tamil Family for Hindu Sozhiya Vellalar Pillai, Post Graduate Engineer, fair, aged 26 years, height 175 cm, Non-Vegetarian. Engineer in a Multinational Company at Bangalore. Please WhatsApp biodata to 9490956857.

GAVARA NAIDU Well settled in Chennai 29years/ 165 cm/ ME Design Engineer in MNC and Own Buisiness, Rental income also, Star Thiruvonam Rasi Magaram seeks suitable Bride, Call 9841097110

ENGINEER, 55/183, unmarried, own company, Bangalore, seeks graduate lady below 50. Mob 86989 66952.

MUDHALIYAR, CA, Age–40, Never married, Star: Kettai, Own House, 6 Acre land. Sub Caste ok. 9677622641

SENGUNTHA MUDALIYAR, 29yrs, 5.5Ft, based in KK Nagar, Chennai. B.E, M.S. (USA), Working as Senior Analyst at Tech Mahindra, Chennai. Belongs to a very affluent family, with clean habits. Seeking a well–educated, good–natured bride. Contact: 9176140575

SMART,SUCCESSFUL DOCTOR MBBS MS ortho,3 fellowships in US ,43 Years, 183 CM,Seeks very Kind and open minded Bride . Settled in NewYork, USA. Salary USD 400000.Dont Hope in Caste,Jathagam. Ct: 9841280231

TAMIL

CASTE NO Bar. Good looking Mudaliar Boy 30 / 174 from an affluent Business Background seeking a fair & pleasant looking girl. Ct 8925819448

BTech Bits Pilani 183cm Height Mudaliar born Nov 91 MNC Bangalore Sal 65 lacs seeks Bride from same, Allied castes, Tamil, Telugu Contact: 7382620365

SCAD 42 Yrs BE MBA Central Government Bank AGM transferable Post. Legally divorced no child, seeks bride below 41 divorcee without Child. Caste No Bar. Ph: 8870315039.

PARENTS OF Devendra Kula Velalar settled @Chennai family is looking for a suitable alliance for their son aged 28 years. Qualification:M.E., I T professional.Ct : 094449 02830, 094442 92830

SAIVA PILLAI, Chennai, B.E, EMBA, 35 yrs, 168 cm, Fair, Slim, Working in IT, 12 LPA, Star Avittam, Rasi Kumbam, Looking for a suitable Bride, Contact 9884228640

HINDU, GOUNDER, Age 32, MBA Graduated, Working as manager in a private sector, Need educated Gounder Bride. Ct 8138900498

HINDU, NADAR, Age 29, MBBS, MD, Doctor at Pudhucherry, Income 7 Lakhs, Need doctor Bride. Ct 7356483111

HINDU, MEENAVAR, Age 32, Studied BE, Working as Associate Consultant at Chennai, Income 15 Lakhs. Ct 8138002746

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar, 27yrs B.Tech 2lakhs pm, Elite business family in Chennai 9380791999/ 9841329471

MUDALIAR 29/180 Handsome, BE, SWE, Wipro, Ch, 2000000.PA, Affluent Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

RICH MUDALIYAR, 37yrs, Divorce, M.Tech, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 6385293227

BE MBA IIM Agamudayar 28yrs 18LPA Executive Pvt Bank Punarpoosam only Son. Looking professional match from Mukkulathore Community. Ct:98420 03232

God Fearing Rich Family, Vanniyar Padayatchi Settled in Tiruchirappalli invites Proposal for their 2nd Son, Rasi-Viruchigam, Star-Kettai, Age 30, Fair, 175 cm, Rahu Ketu Dosam BE Civil. Owns a Luxury 4 Star Hotel (Hotel Vijayarani) Opp. Govt. Hospital, Trichy, adorns as MD of the Hotel and also Constructs his Own Apartment (Builder). Besides Many Assets. NO BAD HABITS Caste No Bar
Seeks Suitable Girl with Rahu Ketu Dosham
94431 24712

TAMIL, CASTE–NO–BAR, 29/176, MS, handsome boy, working in an MNC in Germany seeks good–looking, working bride willing to move to Germany. The girl must be from a well–educated, upper middle class family. Contact: 98420 13591.

IYER TAMIL Divorcee 50yrs SWE MNC Chennai Seeks Minimum Graduate without Issues. Caste No Bar. 9841942915

TAMIL IYER boy, 26/185, handsome, Bharadwaja Gothram, B.Tech & MS from top US University, with clean habits, 40 LPA, B'lore based MNC IT firm, with mild vision loss seeks suitable alliance. Contact 9901802909

TAMIL

BRAHMIN IYENGAR 46yrs, 1st marriage salary 1,25,000/- monthly in pondicherry seeking brahmin bride divorcee or widow without child broker excuse Ct: 9790864363

BRAHMIN 63YRS well settled author, Looking soulmate for marriage, widow around 50yrs WhatsApp 8220822951

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom
Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion.
CT: 93842 76066

SBI Manager 32/168 BE Aero Inter caste only son Rich seeks Doctors / Govt. Officers. CT: 96003-90006.

TELUGU

RICH NAIDU, 27yrs, BE, well Educated Family background, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9962791888

RICH NAIDU, 28yrs, ME, Own constructions and Builders in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact:6385293227

SEEKING CHENNAI bride with hindu culture; male aged 29; 177 cm; white; Bharani (2nd); Data engineer (WTC); Chennai based; retired parents; 9840678282.

GAVARA NAIDU Swati/Thulam 26/165 BTech MCom(IB) Elite Business family in Tuticorin seeks suitable bride MBA/CA CT: 9994879335/ 9445902335

✔ **HINDU REDDY (Desuru) 1984 born (41 yrs) 191 cms 6'4 issueless divorcee MDS (oral medicine and radiology) from Sri Ramachandra University dentist working in private hospital (Acharya dental, Nungambakkam) living in Chennai with mother, father no more and only one elder brother living in USA 1lakh per month teetollar makara rasi avittam willing to relocate to any part of Chennai seeks tall, understanding bride unmarried or widow or divorcee with or without kid will be as a son to her family CNB Ct:9080014149.**

GAVARA, MBBS, M.D.(Physiology), AIIMS in Delhi, 13LPA, 175cm, 30y, groom seeks a Gavara bride. 7799442110

Kamma 29 yrs, Fair, Good looking Employed Bride seeks understanding well Educated Employed Groom from Chennai/Bengaluru Cont: 7708173592

URDU

URDU MUSLIM 34 yrs, IT Professional from Trichy, working in Bangalore, Salary 1.5 lakhs per month, issueless divorcee, seeks suitable issueless girl. 98410 60600

SEEKING CANADIAN PR/Citizen Bride 23–28yrs working professional with fmly values for our Son in Toronto (Citizen) , 29yrs, 180cm, handsome, highly educated, Masters, well employed with MNC. Parents are Chennai based Khan Fmly . Pl send details. Whatsapp: +91 9841078666 (Father)

URDU MUSLIM AHLE HADEES
26 YRS, 176CM, M.SC (UK) FROM WELL SETTLED RELIGIOUS FAMILY.
Looking Graduate Bride from well settled Family, Preferably from Chennai.
Ct: +91 99401 37445

SMU Chennai based Boy 34/168 B.E MBA workg@Chennai own house well settled family seeks bride.8122989086

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

TAMIL

32Years Son, Tamil, SC (Caste No Bar), ME, MBA 17 LPA & 28Years Daughter, BE, MBA 13LPA work in IT seek suitable Bride & Groom respectively. Contact Cell: 9441677205.

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 32, 168 cms, MS, Engineer-Non IT. Lives in UAE. Parents are Professional. Looking for a like minded match from any Brahmin community. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 32, 170 cms, Software Professional, Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a suitable match from business background. Contact: 6366448343

NAIDU, 39, 173 cms, MBA, Businessman. Lives in Coimbatore. Father into business. family is affluent. Looking for a suitable match from similar community who is willing to settle in Coimbatore. Contact:6366448344

PIRAMALAI KALLAR, 29, 175 cms, Software Professional. Lives in New Zealand. Family is affluent. Looking for a like minded match from software profession from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 25, 175 cms, MS, Working Professional. Lives in US. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from any Tamil Brahmin community from abroad or any metro cities in India. Contact: 6366448344

CHETTIAR, 26, 165 cms, MBA, Professional. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from similar community. Preferably Chennai. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 26, 165 cms, Graduate. Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from Business background in Tamil Naidu. Contact: 6366448343

MUDALIYAR, 25, 168 cms, MS, Lives in Chennai. Working in Software Professional. Looking for a like minded match from Business background from similar community in India/ Abroad. Contact: 6366448343

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TAMIL

IYER BHARADWAJA 28/153 MS (Engineering) Punarpoosam (3) MNC USA Seeks Suitable Tamil Iyer Groom between 28-33 years Working in USA. 7639702929.

GROOM WANTED
Alliance invited from senior IPS officer (R) for his daughter 31 beautiful intelligent post graduate in law from abroad & practicing in chennai and Bangalore
Affluent nuclear family settled in Chennai. Looking for CA/MBA (premier institute) / Civil servant / LLM / MBBS / Non-IT
CASTE NO BAR
WhatsApp 6374474395

BRAHMIN EXCLUSIVE
SOUTH INDIA'S LEADING BUSINESS FAMILY SEEKING GROOM FOR THEIR DAUGHTER COMPLETED STUDIES ABORAD
GROOM PREFERENCE
FROM AN LEADING BRAHMIN FAMILY
ELITE AND WELL QUALIFIED
Born Before 1993
kssgrand20@gmail.com

SC AD 37yrs, BE Software Engineer, 1.40Lks/month, TCS, Chennai. Never married, seeks Grooms Age 37-40 yrs. Ct: 99521 47216 / 88380 34943

Adidravidar 28/160cm Hastham B.E, B.Ed seeks Professionally qualified settled groom,same caste.9789668845

Hindu BC Girl, 26years / 168cms MBBS, M.D.(Dermatology) working in Chennai well settled family seeks suitable qualified Professional / Business Groom Ct: 86680 06323/ 98401 23619

DOCTOR

GAVARA 28, MBBS, Business, 5.10" Smart Good Looking, Poorattadhi 4, Meenam Well Settled seeks MBBS, beautiful Naidu Bride. Cont: 9941944443, E–mail: subburayanthamba@gmail.com

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

BRIDE WANTED– Christian Preferred from in and around Alappuzha, Kerala Groom 38,MBA, Business Beejees Carz Settled in Chennai.Ct:99443 48378

NAIR PARENTS Mumbai seek proposals for boy, 29/183 cm, CA, Thrikketta (Sudhajathakam), employed in MNC Mumbai, from parents of professionally qualified Nair girls. Father: 9819730974.

TELUGU

RICH REDDIYAR, 30yrs, M.Tech, Running Own colleges in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

TELUGU BRAHMIN Girl 30yrs, M. Arch, working in Australia seeks suitable groom. Contact: 81487 77931.

SEEKING NAIDU groom, well educated born not after 1987 for a smart research scholar born August 1990 hailing from a respectable family. Contact: 9790908109

RICH KAMMA Naidu, 29yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

SEEKING GROOM Chettiar / Naidu for a religious home loving fair complexion divorcee born 1990 with a girl child 7 years from a respectable family. Contact: 9840091267

RICH NAIDU, 24yrs, B.Tech, Running Own Transports, Resorts & Complex, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 6385293227

Hindu Naidu, MBBS, M.D, 34/160cm, Simmam/ Magam, seeks suitable Doctor, CA Groom. Ct: 80722 14843

TAMIL

TAMIL MUSLIM, Age 29, completed B.E, Doing Business With family at Chennai, Income 10 Lakhs, Looking for any muslim. Contact: 8138009140

TAMIL MUSLIM, Age 26, B.Com, M.Sc, Managing Director at Chennai, Rich and Affluent family. Call: 8138900312

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Age 28, M.Sc, MS, Operations Coordinator, Need any tamil or malayalam bride. Ct 8138900487

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 36yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

HINDU, CASTE no bar, age 31, Doing business, Income 40 Lakhs, Upper middle class family. Ct 8137003551

NAIDU, 38, BE, MBA, Bank Officer, Seeks Bride from Naidu Family From Tamilnadu. Ph: 9443172955

URDU

B.ARCH 26/ 163 Fair Hijabi Chennai seeks well educated well settled Namazi from Tamilnadu. Ct: 9791216228

SMU PARENTS from reputed & respectable family well settled & established in Dubai/ Kochi/ Chennai seeks groom from decent family for their daughter BBA /30yrs/151cm/ Very Fair/ pious / humble / homely WhatsApp: 8089023420 Call: 8848880792

SUNNI MUSLIM 29/168 MS (MBA) US IT, California seeks US based professional groom. Whatsapp: 9840124476

SUNNI MUSLIM 33F,Educated,Issueless Divorcee,seeks alliance from well qualified & settled,religious, issueless groom,8971400197(5.30pm–10pm)

SMU PROFESSIONAL Parents Invite Alliance for their Daughter B.Des, 27yrs, 165cm.Hijabi from Well Settled Groom, Preferably Working Abroad.(Australia,UK,UAE & Qatar) Early Marriage Preferred.Contact: 9940119786

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IMMDT FINANCE Against Properties, Projects, Business,Cheque. 7339628939

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BRAND NEW 3bhk flats available for outrate in HSR Layout 2nd sector. Landmark near chaitanya techno school. Total 20 flats out of which only 4flats available for outrate with basic amenities, size- 1440sqft,1607sqft, Price-1.45cr onwards excluding registration charges for details+919945669166

SELLING

RESIDENTIAL FLAT – OTHERS

ON Sarjapur-Bagalur road, in gated community with all amenities Brand new 4bhk Duplex row villas available for outrate, out of 217 villas only 6 villas available. Dimension-1485sqft. BUA-2460aqft. Price-1.96cr. Note-Even bulk purchaser are welcome Contact for details +919945669166

THE HINDU
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CBI books Pinarayi's key official Abraham in illegal assets case

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

K.M. Abraham

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against K.M. Abraham, Chief Principal Secretary to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in connection with an allegation that he has amassed wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income.

The CBI move comes against the backdrop of the Kerala High Court ordering a CBI investigation into the allegations against the former Chief Secretary on April 11.

Mr. Abraham is also at present Chief Executive Officer of the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board.

The High Court order had come on a petition by activist Jomon Puthenpurackal challenging a Thiruvananthapuram Vigilance special court order dismissing his petition for a Vigilance probe. The High Court had directed the Superintendent of Police, Kochi unit of the CBI, to register an FIR against Mr. Abraham based on Mr. Puthenpurackal's complaint.

Subsequently, on April 16, Mr. Abraham had also written to the Chief Minister seeking a police inquiry into an alleged conspiracy meant to discredit him.

Rahul stresses the need to 'revive' democratic spaces

The Congress leader was addressing the Bharat Summit 2025 in Hyderabad; the old model of a politician is obsolete, says Rahul and adds that a new kind of leadership must be constructed

P. Laxma Reddy
HYDERABAD

Reform talks: Rahul Gandhi addressing the Bharat Summit 2025 at the HICC Novotel in Hyderabad on Saturday. NAGARA GOPAL

Senior Congress leader and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi observed that democratic politics had fundamentally undergone a major change across the globe over the past decade and emphasised the need for constructing a new kind of leadership. He also reiterated the importance of politics based on love and empathy, rather than hatred and fear.

Addressing the Bharat Summit 2025 here on Saturday, Mr. Gandhi said, "The rules that applied a decade ago no longer hold. The tools that once worked cannot stand up to the modern concentration of capital, media and social media. The old model of a politician is obsolete; a new kind of leadership must be constructed."

He also stressed the need for the "revival of democratic spaces".

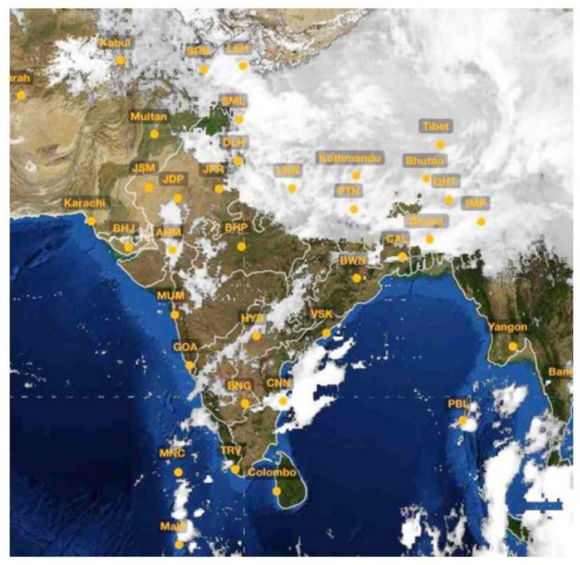
Slamming the ruling BJP for its alleged attempts to instil fear in the public, he said that the voice of the Opposition and people is not heard but crushed. "All our avenues were compromised, including the media. That's when we reached back into history and decided to walk from Kanyakumari to Kashmir – a 4,000-km journey," he said, reflecting on his Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Explaining the power of love in social life and the political spectrum, he said, "Until the yatra, I had never used the word 'love' in politics. But once I did, people began to respond. Love and affection can disrupt hate more powerfully than any argument."

Stating that disagreements on policy are normal, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said, "While their lens is anger, hatred and fear, our lens must be love, affection and deep listening."

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal and Bihar. Heat wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	36.0	27.8	Kozhikode	0.3	37.2	28.3
Ahmedabad	—	41.3	27.0	Kurnool	—	41.4	28.2
Aizawl	—	34.8	20.0	Lucknow	—	42.3	23.2
Allahabad	—	44.8	22.6	Madurai	—	37.5	27.1
Bengaluru	—	33.7	24.1	Mangaluru	—	35.0	27.0
Bhopal	—	40.7	27.4	Mumbai	—	34.2	26.4
Bhubaneswar	—	36.2	27.8	Mysuru	—	35.0	23.2
Chandigarh	—	41.8	22.4	New Delhi	—	42.1	20.7
Chennai	—	34.6	29.3	Patna	—	43.0	26.2
Coimbatore	—	36.6	25.4	Port Blair	—	32.6	26.0
Dehradun	—	38.4	19.2	Puducherry	—	35.2	28.4
Gangtok	2	24.4	15.9	Pune	—	41.9	26.6
Goa	—	36.0	28.0	Raipur	—	43.8	30.0
Guwahati	0.1	35.4	23.1	Ranchi	—	38.6	23.8
Hubballi	—	38.0	24.0	Shillong	—	25.5	15.9
Hyderabad	—	38.7	25.2	Shimla	—	32.0	18.1
Imphal	3	31.3	20.9	Srinagar	—	21.7	9.1
Jaipur	—	39.5	28.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.7	26.6
Kochi	—	33.0	26.8	Tiruchi	—	37.7	28.0
Kohima	—	26.6	19.5	Vijayawada	—	38.4	26.8
Kolkata	—	36.0	28.1	Visakhapatnam	—	35.1	28.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.19	.60	.38	106	134	
Bengaluru	—	.17	.36	143	143	
Chennai	.8	.14	.46	42	53	
Delhi	.33	156	.59	257	361	
Hyderabad	.13	.14	.38	105	84	
Kolkata	.5	.14	.18	64	65	
Lucknow	.10	.71	.44	215	172	
Mumbai	.2	.29	.68	36	64	
Pune	—	.99	108	70	85	
Visakhapatnam	.8	.25	.35	47	99	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhiwadi, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 292 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Agartala, Tripura recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Demand for chartered accountants is growing, say experts

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

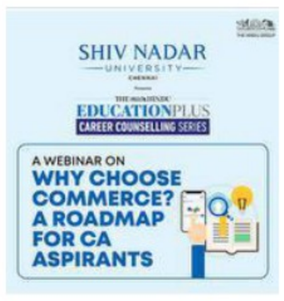
The future of chartered accountants (CA) is bright given the growing demand for the professionals in the changing landscape of businesses in the country, according to experts.

Ramanathan Krishnan, senior programme convener, Department of Commerce at the Shiv Nadar University in Chennai, said, "India is a $4 trillion economy expected to grow to $30 trillion by 2047; this will trigger a requirement of at least 30 lakh CAs. At present, India has only 4,09,000 practising CAs as against a need for 10 lakh."

Speaking at *The Hindu* Education Plus webinar on 'Why Choose Commerce? A roadmap for CA aspirants', Mr. Krishnan said, "The CA syllabus is vast, and the competitive exam has a low 10 to 15 pass percentage. The academic institutions are recognising the problem and trying to address the issue with better learning experiences in undergraduate courses in Commerce."

Mr. Krishnan gave an overview of the different commerce programmes available and how to choose the right one depending on one's aptitude for professional accounting.

The webinar was presented by SNU Chennai as part of *The Hindu*'s career counselling series.



Chella Krishna G., one of the partners in Chennai-based SRSV and Associates, said students should explore Commerce not just as a subject but a way to understand the world. To be a CA is not just a qualification but a gateway to business leadership, he said.

Key role

From filing tax returns and taking care of balance sheets, chartered accountants are empowered to advise business growth and shape financial strategies, Mr. Krishna said. "The aspirants should be prepared to adapt to the enhanced business landscape and equip themselves adequately. The leap is from being number crunchers to independent growth consultants, risk managers, financial advisers and chief financial officers," he said.

The aptitude to learn and stay updated, developing a logical mind and the ability for multi-layered thinking, and gaining tech and soft skills with proficiency in communication are the basic requirements to becoming good CAs, the experts said.

INBRIEF

Farmers showcase indigenous seeds at biodiversity fair in A.P.

A national-level 'Old Seeds Festival – Eastern Ghats Biodiversity Fair' was held at Killoguda village in Alluri Sitharama Raju district of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. Tribals, farmers and voluntary organisations, working on seed conservation, organic fertilisers, and natural farming practices, participated. The event, organised by the NGO Sanjeevini, featured over 60 stalls showcasing traditional heirloom seeds and indigenous products. Farmers from Nilgiris, Wayanad, Odisha, Araku and Rampachodavaram displayed their native seeds and products.

Three killed in explosion at fireworks unit in Sivakasi

At least three workers – all women – were killed and seven persons were injured in an explosion at a private fireworks unit in M. Pudupatti village near Sivakasi on Saturday. Personnel from the Fire and Rescue Services Department said that after they received a call around noon, more than 50 firefighters rushed to the spot. Initial inquiry revealed that one Jaishankar owned the licensed fireworks unit, which had over 100 sheds. Firefighters who were at the scene said the bodies were beyond recognition and several rooms of the unit were filled with smoke.

YSRCP loses Vizag Deputy Mayor post in no-trust vote

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has suffered another setback in the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) Council, this time by losing the Deputy Mayor post. It is the YSRCP's second consecutive drubbing in less than a week following the loss of the Mayor's post. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA), comprising the TDP, the JSP, and the BJP, won the no-confidence motion against Deputy Mayor Jiyyani Sridhar on Saturday. The NDA secured victory with 74 votes, meeting the required majority.

Traditional tribute

Centenary cheer: Students dancing at the inaugural of the Andhra University centenary function in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. V. RAJU

T.N. Assembly introduces Bill to amend Goondas Act

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The State government on Saturday introduced a Bill in the Assembly to amend the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber Law Offenders, Drug Offenders, Forest Offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Sand Offenders, Sexual Offenders, Slum-Grabbers and Video Pirates Act, 1982.

Though the Bill bore the name of Electricity, Prohibition and Excise Minister V. Senthilbalaji, who was present in the House, Law Minister S. Regupathy introduced it in the Assembly.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had previously announced in the Assembly that the Act (Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982) would be amended suitably to control the activities of persons committing economic offences.

Explaining the need to amend the Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016, under the Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982, the Bill recalled the observation of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court that it was time to book the violators of the Rules.

It also pointed out the risks posed by biomedical waste to public health and environment, and complaints about the dumping of such waste in Tamil Nadu from neighbouring States.

The Bill said certain consequential amendments were required.

Historian M.G.S. Narayanan, chronicler of Kerala's past, dies

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

Celebrated for his unflinching confidence, which garnered both laurels and animosity, prominent historian and former chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) Muttayil Govinda Menon Sankaranarayanan, better known as M.G.S. Narayanan or M.G.S., died at the age of 92 at his residence in Kozhikode on Saturday morning.

Proficient in Vattezhuthu, syllabic alphabet of southern India and Sri Lanka, as well as Kolezhuthu, syllabic alphabet of Kerala for writing Malayalam language, he also possessed a deep knowledge of Sanskrit. In 1996, he had published his researched thesis titled *Perumals of Kerala*, exploring the complex political and social dynamics of Kerala from 800 to 1124 CE.

His other notable published works include *Cultural Symbiosis in Kerala* (1972) and *Calicut: The City of Truth Revisited* (2006). With an admirable scholarly legacy, M.G.S. fearlessly confronted Left-leaning and pro-Marxist historians, resolute in his unshakable convictions, and engraved an indelible mark on the historical narrative at the national and State levels. Often, he found himself embroiled in controversies that led many among historians and politicians to tag him as a historian with right-wing biases.

Born to K.P. Govinda Menon and Narayani Amma in Ponnani on August 20, 1932, M.G.S. channelled his early hardships into love for poetry and painting after the loss of his mother at a young age and his father's remarriage. His early education took place in schools and colleges in Kerala and erstwhile Madras, obtaining first rank in history from the University of Madras in 1953. Subsequently, he earned a Ph.D. from the University of Kerala. He headed the History Research Centre of Kerala University at Zamorin's Guruvayurappan College.

M.G.S. NARAYANAN
(1932 - 2025)

Later, when Calicut University was formed, the centre was converted into the Department of History of the university, which M.G.S. headed from 1976 until his retirement in 1990. He was also a Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, in 1974-75, and a visiting Professor at universities in Moscow, Leningrad, Tokyo, and Mexico.

He authored several books in Malayalam, including *India Charitra Parichayam* (1969), *Sahitya Aparadhangal* (1970), *Kerala Charitrathinte Adisthanasilakal* (1971), *Kozhikodinte Katha* (2001), and *Janadhipathyavum Communisavum* (2004).

Academic activism

Incidentally, his academic activism continued even after his retirement. Not content with mere intellectual discourse, M.G.S. was also a man of action, spearheading social movements aimed at addressing the problems faced by ordinary people, such as the campaign for the development of the Mananchira-Vellimadukuunnu road in Kozhikode city.

In a message on Saturday, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said although M.G.S. was a staunch critic of the Left at one point, he subsequently defended history from the right-wing that wanted to appropriate it. In 2015, M.G.S. spoke out strongly against the growing intolerance under the current dispensation at the Centre.

M.G.S. played a huge role in shaping history and history writing into a knowledge domain, he added. The historian is survived by his wife and two children.

From Page One

Bring Pahalgam attack sponsors to justice: UNSC

The Security Council further "underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice."

The UNSC called upon "all states" to "cooperate actively" with the Indian authorities to bring the perpetrators of the crime to justice.

"The members of the Security Council reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security," the UNSC said.

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to restart by June-end

There are also discussions on a number of events to mark 75 years of ties between India and China.

After talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazan last year, the two sides agreed to restore normal bilateral ties.

The MEA announced that both routes – via Lipulekh pass through Dharchula in Uttarakhand, and via Nathu La Pass through Gangtok in Sikkim – will be reopened for the pilgrims or "yatris" between June and August 2025, with five batches of 50 pilgrims each being selected through a computerised process to travel through Lipulekh, and 10 batches of 50 pilgrims each through Nathu La.

"The Yatris will be selected from among applicants through a fair, computer-generated, random and gender-balanced selection process," the MEA statement said. It invited applications for the trip that is open only to Indian citizens who have to pass certain fitness tests to ensure they can reach heights of up to 19,500 feet.

According to the website for applicants, kmy-.gov.in, the trip via Lipulekh will cost ₹1.74 lakh per person. The route via Nathu La will cost ₹2.83 lakh, accounting for higher airfares.

All-weather roads connect remote block along LoC in J&K for first time

Khwas has recorded zero incidents of terrorism in the past one year, says Rajouri Deputy Commissioner, citing the terrain and its remoteness as among the factors for high incidence of terrorism in the area; block to get 4G Internet connectivity

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Harsh conditions: Khwas is one of the remotest blocks in the country, with a literacy rate of 41%, and a population of 35,212, says Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma. X@WORKSDEPARTMENT

Khwas, a remote block situated in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir along the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), has not experienced any terrorism-related incidents in the past year, according to a presentation made by Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma on April 21.

The change comes after four panchayats in the block were connected by road for the first time under the Union government's Aspirational Block Programme.

Since 2021, after a lull of two decades, the Jammu region, which includes the Chenab Valley comprising Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Kathua, Udhampur, and Reasi districts, and the area to the south of the Pir Panjal range, comprising Rajouri and Poonch districts, has seen a resurgence in terrorist activities. This region was a hotbed of militancy in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Mr. Sharma spoke on the Khwas block – an area spanning 2.63 sq. km, with the LoC forming its western boundary, and the Pir Panjal mountains to the north – at an event organised by the Department of Administration and Public Grievances on the occasion of Civil Services Day. He said Khwas was one of the remotest blocks in the country, with a literacy rate of 41%, and a population of 35,212, as per 2011 Census.

"Before the Aspirational Block Programme was launched, four out of 15 panchayats did not have any road connectivity with the block and district headquarters. This resulted in a cycle of poverty and terrorism," Mr. Sharma said.

The Markanar panchayat, for instance, is located 121 km from the district headquarters of Rajouri, and it took three hours to trek to the village. The officer said the terrain and its remoteness were among the factors for terrorism in the Khwas area.

"It was highest in the number of terror incidents. Because of security issues, there was a lack of monitoring of projects on the ground, no audit was done, no senior official would visit the block, and there was no connection with the people of the block," Mr. Sharma said.

Migrating community

The tribal Bakarwal community migrates down to the plains in the winters with livestock, moving up again in the summer months.

"When we analysed the situation, it emerged that the fundamental issue for low literacy rate was connectivity. Highest funds under government schemes were allotted to the block. All panchayats and villages are now connected by all-weather roads for the first time. For the past one year, no terrorist incident had occurred in the block. We discussed [this] with the security forces. They can reach any village now," Mr. Sharma said.

He said there was an overall change in the security paradigm due to road and Internet connectivity. "Communication was a key issue. Khwas is 100% tribal, entire schemes could not reach the people because of the language barrier. We translated all the schemes to the Gojri language.. .four panchayats are yet to be connected with Internet. Under the 4G saturation scheme, BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.) has started installing towers. In a few months, the areas will be connected by 4G Internet," the officer said.

The Aspirational Block Programme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2023 to cover 500 of the most backward blocks located in 328 districts of 27 States and four Union Territories.

Pakistan supporters to face NSA, says Assam CM

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said the National Security Act would be slapped on anyone in the State found supporting Pakistan, directly or indirectly.

His warning followed the arrest of 17 people, including All India United Democratic Front MLA Aminul Islam, across Assam, Meghalaya, and Tripura for alleged anti-India remarks over the Pahalgam terror attack.

"We will arrest anyone who makes an anti-India statement under the NSA," he said, during the release of the BJP's manifesto for the two-phase panchayat polls in May. The event was held at the party's State headquarters in Guwahati.

On Saturday, the Assam Police arrested six people, including Congress leader Bimal Mahato from Orang in Darrang district and a woman from Golaghat district. Three of the other four were from the Barak Valley in southern Assam.

On Friday, the Assam Police arrested seven for alleged anti-India comments on social media. Friday also saw the Tripura and Meghalaya police arrest three people on similar charges.

Centre admitted to lapse in security in Pahalgam terror attack, says Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Mallikarjun Kharge

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said the Union government had admitted to security lapses following the terrorist attack and killing of 26 tourists in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir.

At a function here, Mr. Kharge said Home Minister Amit Shah, during an all-party meeting on Thursday, had admitted that security lapse was the reason for the attack. Despite the existence of a three-phase security, the Centre was not able to ensure the safety of tourists visiting J&K, he said.

However, the Congress has decided to support the Centre in the interest of the nation and the party has supported the government's decision. The Congress was committed to coordination and cooperation with the government to eliminate terrorism from its roots, the Congress leader said.

Skipping all-party meet

Mr. Kharge, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, took exception to Prime Minister Narendra Modi skipping the all-party meeting, and said it was not good on the part of Mr. Modi to abstain from the meeting. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chaired the meeting.

"We expected Mr. Modi to chair the meeting and hold discussions with all political parties to address the challenge of terrorism. But Mr. Modi visited Bihar and delivered an election speech there. Instead of giving an election speech, the Prime Minister should have attended the all-party meeting," Mr. Kharge said.

Noting that tourists were killed after being enquired about their religion, Mr. Kharge said in Karnataka too many leaders speak on caste and religious lines. Educational institutions should not propagate any caste or religion, and students too should refrain from caste and religious based interactions, he said.

Thousands bid adieu to Army man who was killed in Udhampur

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Family members of Havildar Jhantu Ali Sheikh at his funeral at Patharghata village. PTI

Thousands of people gathered at Patharghata village in Tehatta town of West Bengal's Nadia district on Saturday to pay their last respects to Army Havildar Jhantu Ali Sheikh, who was killed in an anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on April 24.

Sheikh's body, draped in the Tricolour, reached his home around 8 a.m. His brother Rafiqul Ali Sheikh, who is also serving in the Army, attended the funeral. The final rites were performed with full state honours.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced compensation of ₹10 lakh to the family. She has promised the family a job on compassionate grounds. She also announced compensation of ₹10 lakh each for the kin of three tourists from the State who were among the 26 killed in the terror attack in Pahalgam.

Meanwhile, Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee said he spoke to Border Security Force (BSF) Director General Daljit Chawdhary over securing the return of BSF Constable Purnam Kumar Shaw, from Hooghly, who has been detained by the Pakistan Army.

RSS chief slams Pakistan for 'evil act', says king's duty is to protect people

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Mohan Bhagwat

The duty of a king is to protect his people, and the king must perform his duty, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Saturday, following the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed. Mr. Bhagwat criticised Pakistan for its "evil act".

He was speaking in Delhi at the launch of a book authored by a senior functionary of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad.

"Our dharma is that we must not get beaten by tyrants and must teach a lesson to goons," the RSS chief said.

"The king's job is to protect people and he must perform his duty," he added.

Giving the example of Ravana from the Ramayana, Mr. Bhagwat said that it was known he had all the qualities to become "the best" king, as a great administrator, scholar, and follower of Shiva. Ravana had everything but he had to die because he was not using these qualities for good, he said.

"It was known that whatever you do, Ravana couldn't be made a good person. Then, only one option was left – that his present body should be destroyed so that he could get another soul and body. This is why God killed him and this killing is not violence; it's non-violence only," Mr. Bhagwat said.

'Only way out'

"India's nature is non-violence... our non-violence is to change people. It is to make people non-violent... but some people can never change. You do whatever possible for them. They won't change and they will keep creating nuisance in the world... then what one can do in this situation?" Mr. Bhagwat said.

He also spoke of how the Bhagvad Gita said that Arjuna had to kill his own brothers because that was "the only way out for them".

FIITJEE took ₹206 cr. fees, failed to give services: ED

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday alleged that FIITJEE had collected about ₹206 crore from students of current-batches under the pretext of providing educational services, which were not delivered.

On Thursday, the agency initiated searches at seven locations in Noida, Delhi, and Gurugram in the case of 'FIITJEE fraud case'. The official premises and residences of the director, D.K. Goel, and other top functionaries were covered during the operation. Jewellery worth ₹4.89 crore and ₹10 lakh in cash were seized, it said.

SC confirms CBI probe into mysterious death of former Andhra MP's close confidant

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has confirmed a Karnataka High Court direction for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the mysterious death of K. Raghunath, a realtor with assets in Bengaluru and a close confidant of former Andhra Pradesh MP and Chairman of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams D.K. Adikeshavalu, in 2019.

"The fact remains that the truth surrounding the death of K. Raghunath needs to be settled after a complete and fair investigation by the CBI which, in the facts and circumstances of the present case, has rightly been directed by the High Court," a Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Prashant Kumar Mishra observed.

The facts of the case show that Adikeshavalu died in 2013, following which a dispute arose between Raghunath and the children of the former MP regarding the ownership of certain properties. Raghunath maintained he was the full owner of the property. In 2019, the realtor was found dead under mysterious circumstances. The High Court found glaring defects in the investigation, and in 2022, ordered the case to be probed by the CBI.

The High Court order was appealed in the top court.

The Bench, in a recent judgment, directed the CBI to conduct the investigation within eight months.

Court's discretion

The Supreme Court upheld the High Court's discretion to shift an investigation from the police to the CBI.

"Once an FIR is registered and investigation has taken place, direction for an investigation by the CBI is not open to challenge by the prospective suspect or accused. The matter for entrusting investigation to a particular agency is at the discretion of the court," Justice Mishra held.

PM virtually distributes over 51,000 appointment letters in Rozgar Mela

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Proud moment: A new recruit poses with a cut-out of Narendra Modi during a Rozgar Mela in Kochi on Saturday. THULASI KAKKAT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday virtually distributed more than 51,000 appointment letters to new recruits in various Central government departments, as part of the ongoing Rozgar Mela initiative.

Addressing the recruits, Mr. Modi said the government was undertaking sustained efforts to expand opportunities for both employment and self-employment across sectors. He cited India's strong economic outlook, as projected by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which has affirmed that the country will remain the fastest-growing major economy.

Highlighting sectoral growth, the Prime Minister said that both the automobile and footwear industries had achieved record levels of production and export, contributing significantly to job creation.

In the infrastructure sector, he noted a surge in cargo movement via inland waterways – from 18 million tonnes in 2014 to 145 million tonnes currently. The number of operational national waterways, he said, has increased from five to 110, with their total length more than doubling from 2,700 km to over 5,000 km.

Describing the growth as inclusive, Mr. Modi emphasised the rising participation of women in various fields.

He noted that three of the top five candidates in this year's UPSC Civil Services Examination were women, and over 90 lakh self-help groups now comprise more than 10 crore women working across the country.

He also praised the contribution of India's youth to the nation's technological progress, particularly in areas such as data, digital innovation, and real-time digital transactions. "When the youth actively contribute to nation-building, the country experiences accelerated development and earns global recognition," he said.

Houses of 5 militants razed in Kashmir; hundreds detained

Local people say security forces raided villages in south Kashmir's Kulgam, Shopian, Pulwama; they complain the action caused damage to their houses too; tension prevails along the LoC

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

At least five more houses of alleged active militants were turned into rubble through controlled blasts, while more than 100 residences of alleged militant supporters were searched, and hundreds of local people were detained in Kashmir on Saturday, against the backdrop of the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22 that left 26 civilians dead. Meanwhile, there was no let-up in skirmishes on the Line of Control (LoC) for the second day.

Local people said security forces raided three villages in south Kashmir's Kulgam, Shopian, and Pulwama and directed residents to empty the localities surrounding the houses of three alleged active militants. The houses that were destroyed belonged to Ehsan Ul Haq Sheikh, 23, a resident of Pulwama's Murran; Zakir Ahmad Ganai, 29, a resident of Kulgam's Matalhama village; and Shahid Ahmad Kutay, 27, a resident of Shopian's Chotipora. The house of Lashkar-e-Taiba militant Farooq Teedwa was damaged in a blast in Kalaroos, Kupwara, in north Kashmir. The two-storey house of Adnan Shafi Dar, a resident of Shopian's Zainapora, was also destroyed.

The house of a suspected militant stands demolished in Murran village of Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday. IMRAN NISSAR

Seven houses

A total of seven houses, including those belonging to Pahalgam attack suspects Asif Ahmad Sheikh in Pulwama and Adil Thoker in Anantnag's Bijbehara, have been blown up so far during searches by the security forces. Neither the police nor the Army has issued any statement on the dismantling of the houses of militants. Police sources said the local militants had joined the ranks of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Hizbul Mujahideen.

However, their relatives and people living in these localities have questioned the move of the security forces, which has led to damage to nearby houses. The family of Ganai was shifted to a mosque as a blast turned the house into rubble during a crackdown in the night. "We were asked to empty the house. We are innocent. It should have not have happened to us," Ganai's father said.

He said his son went missing on September 27, 2023. "He left and never returned. We filed a missing report with the police. We never saw him thereafter. We don't know if he is alive or not. I have two children and both are pursuing studies," he added.

In Pulwama's Murran, local people alleged that the intensity of the blast was so severe that most of the houses close to Sheikh's developed cracks with the glass shattered. "All the neighbours were asked to shift to safer locations. Then the blast was carried out. It led to cracks in most surrounding houses," a woman said on the condition of anonymity.

Shahzada Jan, mother of Thoker, said their house dismantled on Friday was built by his grandfather. Thoker went missing in 2018 and is believed to have acquired arms training in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police, which have stepped up operations against local militants and their supporters, detained 175 people in Anantnag district. "In the wake of the recent Pahalgam incident and as part of intensified efforts to curb terrorism and its ecosystem, the Anantnag Police, in close collaboration with the Army, CRPF and other security forces, have launched extensive search and cordon operations across the district. Day and night search operations are under way," a police source said. The police said cordon-and-search operations and patrolling have been intensified, including in forest areas, in the district.

In Srinagar, the police searched the houses of 65 suspects, including residences of overground workers and terrorist associates. An unofficial estimate suggests around 1,500 local youth have been questioned or detained since the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam.

Firing by Pakistan

Tension prevailed in border areas in J&K for the second day on Saturday. According to the Army, unprovoked small arms firing was carried out by multiple Pakistan Army posts across the Line of Control in Kashmir on the night of April 25-26. Indian troops responded appropriately with small arms. No casualties were reported, the Army said.

Undeterred hospitality

A fruit seller, Hashim Ali, offers free fruit chat to tourists on the Dal Lake on Saturday. After the Pahalgam attack, 80% of the hotel bookings have been cancelled, the Kashmir Hotel Association says. IMRAN NISSAR

Now, TRF denies role in carrying out terror attack

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

As the global condemnation mounts, the Lashkar-e-Taiba's (LeT) front The Resistance Front (TRF) on Saturday denied its involvement in the Pahalgam terror attack, and termed the previous online claim as a breach.

"We unequivocally deny any involvement in the Pahalgam incident. Any attribution of this act to TRF is false, hasty, and part of an orchestrated campaign to malign the Kashmiri resistance," a TRF spokesperson said, in a purported claim made on social media platforms.

The police have neither refuted nor confirmed the veracity of TRF's online statement.

Minister hits out at Bilawal over Indus treaty suspension

Asian News International
MOHALI

Launching a scathing attack on Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari over his remarks following the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday urged him to "get his mental condition checked".

Mr. Puri warned that India's patience had worn thin, saying, "Tell him to get his mental condition checked. What kind of statements he is giving. Enough is enough... We will no longer tolerate this. Now wait for a few days," Mr. Puri said.

On Friday, Mr. Zardari said: "...I want to stand by the Indus river and give a clear message to India that the Indus river is ours and will remain ours. Either our water will flow from this Indus or your blood."

Pak. woman living in Odisha for 35 years faces deportation

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

A woman from Pakistan, married for 35 years and settled in Odisha's Balangir district, has been plunged into deep agony as the Indian government pushes for the deportation of all Pakistani nationals following the terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

Sharada Kukreja

Sharada Bai, 53, now Sharada Kukreja, shivers at the very thought of being separated from her family: her husband, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren.

"My family came to India more than three decades ago," she says, her voice trembling as media-persons crowd around her home after news broke that she was technically a Pakistani national.

"I landed in Koraput district with my family members, where I married Mahesh Kukreja, a bangle trader."

Expired visa

The woman's family, hailing from Sukkur city of Pakistan's Sindh province and professing Hindu religion, had migrated to India on a 60-day visa in 1987. She has received a deportation notice more than three decades after her visa expired. Her sister who is settled in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur also faces a similar dilemma, family sources said.

Fighting back tears, she pleads, "Ever since I came here, I have lived as an Indian. My family is here. I have no connection with Pakistan. I don't even have an address there. Please, don't separate me from my family. I want to stay with them until my last breath."

Ms. Kukreja has applied for Indian citizenship several times in the past, but for reasons beyond her understanding, the process never materialised.

Media told not to telecast live coverage of operations

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) on Saturday issued an advisory asking all media channels to refrain from live coverage of defence operations, and the movement of security forces.

"In the interest of national security, all media platforms, news agencies, and social media users are advised to exercise utmost responsibility and adhere strictly to existing laws and regulations while reporting on matters concerning defence and other security-related operations," the Ministry said.

The advisory, which came amid reports of the government's plans to carry out major anti-terrorist operations in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, cautioned specifically against real-time coverage, dissemination of visuals, or reporting "sources-based" information related to defence operations or movement.

"Premature disclosure of sensitive information may inadvertently assist hostile elements and endanger operational effectiveness and the safety of personnel," it said, adding that past incidents had underscored the importance of "responsible reporting".

The Ministry said that during some events, including the Kargil war, the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, and the Kandahar hijacking, unrestricted coverage had resulted in "unintended adverse" consequences on national interests.

Families caught in a crossroads after India asks Pakistani nationals to leave the country

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

As the government revokes Pakistani visas and directs Pakistani nationals to return before April 27, families with Indian and Pakistani members caught in a crossroads urged the government to consider their difficult situation.

Standing near the Wagah-Attari border in Punjab, where confusion and panic seems to be in the air, Bajida Khan, an Indian national from Jodhpur, Rajasthan, married to a Pakistani man, says that she crossed the border in February and entered India to visit her family.

Pakistani nationals arrive at the Integrated Check Post at the Attari-Wagah border to cross over near Amritsar on Saturday. PTI

Despite plans of staying for a longer period, Ms. Khan, whose two minor sons hold Pakistani passports, reached the Wagah-Attari border on Friday to cross over, following the Indian government's directive that entails that Pakistani nationals leave the country by April 27.

However, on reaching the border, Ms. Khan learnt that while her sons can cross the border holding Pakistani passports, she with an Indian passport can no longer cross over.

While Ms. Khan, being an Indian national, cannot cross the border, her sons can no longer reside in India. "A mother needs to be with her son, I would urge the government to let me cross with my children," says Ms. Khan.

Carrying her five-year-old in her arms, Rasheeda Khan, who is married to a Pakistani national, reached the border to cross and leave for her in-laws' house in Pakistan. However, on holding an Indian passport, she was not allowed to cross. "I came to Punjab to visit my parents but now due to the attack, we want to cross over but only my son, holding a Pakistani passport can, since I hold an Indian passport, I'm not allowed," she said.

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Online Applications are invited for the aforementioned posts on permanent basis. E/B/T,SC,OC
The last date for submitting online applications are 19/05/2025- 5PM.
No.E 347611 MCC/430/2022-E3-GAD/98 25/04/2025
EXISTING AND ARISING VACANCIES
Online applications are invited for the post of Assistant Pharmacist in MCC(PGIOSR) on Contract Basis.
No.E 7341 MCC/224/2022-GAD-E4/99 25/04/2025
EXISTING AND ARISING VACANCIES
Online applications are invited for the post of Junior Research Fellow (Project), Resident Technician Molecular Oncology, Resident Pharmacist and Patient Care Assistant in MCC(PGIOSR) on Contract Basis.
The last date for submitting online application is 10/05/2025 at 12.00 PM.
* MCC(PGIOSR) invites applications for Senior Resident(Medical) in Clinical Hematology& Medical Oncology, Anesthesiology, Radiation oncology and Surgical oncology.
* MCC(PGIOSR) invites applications for Non-Stipendiary Training Programs in various disciplines.
Details are available in www.mcc.kerala.gov.in Sd/- Director

Odisha State Health & Family Welfare Society
Dept. of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Odisha
Annex Building of SIH&FW, Nayapalli, Unit-8,
Bhubaneswar-751012, Phone: 0674-2392480/88
Advt. No. 05/25 Date: 23.4.2025
Tender for Digital Diagnostics Services in Sub-Centre Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) using IOT (Internet of Things) POC (Point of Care) Medical Devices and Integrated Mobile Platform
Sealed tenders are invited from eligible bidders for Digital Diagnostics Services in Sub-Centre Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) using IOT (Internet of Things) POC (Point of Care) Medical Devices and Integrated Mobile Platform. The tender document with all information relating to the tender process including tender document cost, EMD, eligibility criteria, terms of reference, terms & conditions, evaluation criteria and formats of submission of tender may be downloaded from the website: **www.nhmodisha.gov.in** (under link "**Tenders**").
A pre-bid meeting shall be held on **1.5.2025, 4 PM.** Any amendment in the tender document due to decision in pre-bid meeting / extension of bid if any shall only be notified in the website mentioned above (under link**"Tenders"**).The sealed tenders should reach the office of the undersigned by courier / registered post or may be dropped in the tender box, on or before **22.5.2025, 3 PM**. The technical bid shall be opened on **22.5.2025, 4 PM**.
The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders or cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereof.
E- Sd/- Mission Director - NHM, Odisha

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun -248001
Corporate Identity No. U40109UR2001SGC025867
Email ID :- cgmupcl@yahoo.com, Website : www.upcl.org, Telephone No. 0135-2762444, Fax : 0135-2763839
Websites : (www.mstcecommerce.com)
CORRIGENDUM FOR PURCHASE OF POWER UNDER LONG TERM PROCUREMENT AGAINST TENDER SPECIFICATION NO. 21/CE(COMM)/UPCL-21/LTPP/2025
The amended tender process and activities timeline modifications against tender specification No. 21/CE (COMM)/UPCL-21/LTPP/2025 are as under :-

S.No.	Event	Date & Time
1.	Utility response to queries latest by	03-05-2025 up to 17:00 Hrs
2.	Application Due date	19-05-2025 up to 17:00 Hrs
3.	Announcement of Pre-qualified Applications	10-06-2025 up to 17:00 Hrs
4.	Letter of Award (LOA)	Within 30 days of Bid due date
5.	Validity of Bids	120 days from Bid Due Date
6.	Signing of PSA-DBFOO	Within 30 days of issue of LOA

Hard Copy of B.G/proof of EMD should reach in the office of SE(Commercial), UPCL on or before the due date of application.
All other terms and conditions shall remain as per tender specification No. 21/CE (COMM)/UPCL-21/LTPP/2025.
No.224/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2/Dated : 26.04.2025 SE(COMMERCIAL)
"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION"
Use LED Bulb to Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912) "Pay Electricity Bill Online 24 x 7 from www.upcl.org"
(For information on Electricily Theft, informer may report to Toll Free No 1800 180 4185 Fax No 0135-2760911)

INBRIEF

Meghalaya to host Strawberry Festival on May 2 and 3

The State of Meghalaya will host a two-day Strawberry festival on May 2 and 3, aimed at promoting agro-tourism and rural livelihoods through a range of cultural and recreational activities. The festival will take place simultaneously across three locations – Syntung in East Khasi Hills, Sohliya in Ri-Bhoi district, and Darechigre in West Garo Hills – areas where strawberry cultivation has seen significant growth in recent years. "Visitors will be provided with the opportunity to pick fresh strawberries straight from the fields and an immersive experience to connect with the rural way of life," an official said.

BJP MLA booked for hurting religious sentiments in Jaipur

In the wake of the terrorist attack in J&K's Pahalgam, the Jaipur police on Saturday registered a criminal case against BJP MLA Balmukund Acharya on charges of hurting religious sentiments by leading a sloganeering crowd that assembled outside the Jama Masjid. Mr. Acharya and his supporters allegedly raised offensive slogans and put up posters on the mosque premises late on Friday night. This angered the people who had gathered to offer Friday prayers, and a large number of them gathered to protest agains the MLA. Congress MLAs Rafiq Khan and Amin Kagzi as well as Police Commissioner Biju George Joseph reached the spot and contained the situation.

Need to rebuild Meitei, Thadou ties in Manipur: TIM

The Thadou Inpi Manipur (TIM), an apex body of the Thadou tribal community, has emphasised the need to rebuild and strengthen confidence and understanding between the Meitei and Thadou communities in the State, which is trying to recover from the scars inflicted by two years of ethnic conflict. The organisation said the gradual return to normalcy and peace in Manipur has paved the way for mending the Meitei-Thadoi ties and rebuilding trust among all other communities in the multiethnic State. It condemned the "widespread human rights violations and persecution by Kuki terrorists and supremacist groups".

NCW looks into harassment plaints by Mathura teachers

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has taken cognisance of complaints over the alleged harassment and issuance of termination notices to several women teachers in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura district. Acting upon reports published in local newspapers, the Commission issued a formal notice to the District Magistrate of Mathura, directing a detailed inquiry and the submission of a report within seven days. In its notice, the NCW expressed strong disapproval over the alleged misconduct by a Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA). It termed the actions of the BSA as "misuse of official position" and "violation of women's rights".

India raises continental-shelf claim in Arabian Sea region

Documents suggest it added 10,000 square km to its original claim in the central Arabian Sea; this helps India skirt the maritime border dispute with Pakistan, which led to the rejection of the entirety of its 2009 claim in the same region

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India has increased its claim in the central Arabian Sea, as part of its "extended continental shelf" by nearly 10,000 square km and also modified an earlier claim to avoid a long-standing dispute with Pakistan over the maritime boundary between the two countries, suggest documents submitted earlier this month with the United Nations.

Expanding horizons: India already has 12 nautical miles of territorial sea and 200 nautical miles of the EEZ measured from the baselines to its credit. VIJAY SONEJI

Coastal countries have an exclusive economic zone (EEZ), which gives exclusive mining and fishing rights, up to 200 nautical miles from their coastlines. In addition to this, such States can make claims for more area in the ocean provided they can scientifically establish to a UN body, called the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), that this claimed area extends unbroken from their landmass all the way to the seabed.

All of this oceanic area is considered part of a country's extended continental shelf. This gives them rights to commercially mine for valuable minerals, polymetallic nodules and oil reserves. India already has 12 nautical miles of territorial sea and 200 nautical miles of the EEZ measured from the baselines.

"With the anticipated addition of approximately 1.2 million square km of extended continental shelf from the two submissions to the 2 million sq. km of EEZ, India's seabed and sub-seabed area would become almost equal to its land area of 3.274 million sq. km," according to the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa.

India made its first claim in 2009 in vast stretches of sea spanning the Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. Due to geology, the continental shelf of a country can frequently overlap with another, and the process of scrutinising and deciding upon the claims of countries can run into years. While India's claims are still being weighed upon, Pakistan in 2021 objected to portions of India's claimed territory in the western offshore regions on the grounds that nearly 100 nautical miles overlapped with a maritime border that was under "dispute".

Specifically, this referred to a dispute between the countries over the Sir Creek, a strip of water in the marshes of the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat. The creek roughly separates the Kutch region in India and Pakistan's Sindh province. While India countered these objections, the net result was that the CLCS, in March 2023, rejected the entirety of India's claim in the Arabian Sea region. However, the commission gives leeway to countries to submit "modified claims".

It's in response to this that on April 3, India split its original claim (in the western Arabian Sea) into two "partial ones". Doing so, said an official in the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), is to ensure that India's claim in the central Arabian Sea region is not affected.

"Countries can submit any number of partial claims. Overall we have increased our claim by an additional 10,000 sq. km based on additional data gathered," M. Ravichandran, Secretary, MoES, told *The Hindu*. "The remaining part can be discussed bilaterally. This strategy is part of our approach to ensure that at least (the region) without dispute, and which is very valuable, is awarded to us." Institutions of the MoES, such as the NCPOR, have played a key role in the technical aspects of determining India's continental shelf.

Some parts of India's continental shelf claims in the Arabian Sea overlap with that of Oman. However, the two countries have an agreement in place since 2010 that while the continental shelf between them is yet to be delimited, it is 'not under dispute'.

India has claimed about 300,000 square km in the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean, though these have faced contests by Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

DGCA puts out advisory over airspace restrictions

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Saturday issued an advisory to airlines on providing proper communication and in-flight catering services to passengers as international flights were having longer flying time due to the Pakistan airspace closure.

Pakistan has closed its airspace for Indian airlines, resulting in longer flying hours for their international flights, especially those flying out from north Indian cities, including Delhi.

The DGCA's advisory focuses on five main areas – pre-flight passenger communication, in-flight catering and comfort, medical preparedness and alternative aerodromes, customer service and support readiness, and intra-departmental coordination.

Airlines have to ensure that all passengers are proactively informed about the change in routing and revised total expected travel time. Also, the possibility of a technical stop at an intermediate airport should be informed to the passengers.

According to DGCA, airlines must ensure that catering uplift is revised based on actual expected block time.

Two years on, SMILE barely reduces beggary, rescues only 970 persons

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Two years after the Union Social Justice Ministry started identifying, surveying, and profiling people engaged in begging under the SMILE scheme, the programme has so far identified only 9,958 such individuals across 81 cities and towns where it is being implemented. In comparison, the 2011 Census had recorded 3.72 lakh beggars across the country.

As per records available with the Ministry, which runs the Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) scheme, of the 9,958 persons identified, only 970 have been rehabilitated, as of December 2024. Of those rehabilitated, 352 were children.

The scheme identified fewer than 10,000 people engaged in begging across 81 towns and cities. K. RAGESH

The SMILE scheme was launched in 2022. One of its components was the sub-scheme to identify, profile, and rehabilitate individuals engaged in the act of begging, with their consent. The idea was to "make identified urban spaces, mainly religious cities, tourist places, and historical cities, free from beggary". The other component is the empowerment of transgender persons.

Phase 1 of the scheme was started across 30 cities, including Ayodhya, Dharamsala, Amritsar, Gir Somnath, Giridih, New Delhi, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Gaya, Lucknow, Madurai, Kochi, Jammu, Srinagar, and Jaisalmer. In Phase 2, 50 more cities were added to this list.

The Socio-Economic and Caste Census of 2011, which the Social Justice Ministry continues to refer to in its 2024 Handbook on Social Welfare Statistics, estimated that over 6.62 lakh households in rural India rely on begging, charity or alms.

According to the scheme guidelines, the target of the scheme was to rehabilitate at least 8,000 people in the three years between FY 2023-24 and FY 2025-26.

The latest guidelines for the sub-scheme said an allocation of ₹100 crore had been made for it, to be spent from 2023-24 to 2025-26. According to the Social Justice Ministry's Annual Report for 2024-25, as of December 31, 2024, the government had spent ₹14.71 crore on this scheme.

Plea in SC challenges exclusion of divorced men from surrogacy

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has sought the response of the Centre on a petition filed by a 45-year-old divorced and single man claiming his right to be a biological parent through surrogacy.

A Bench headed by Justice B.V. Nagarathna issued notice to the Union government on the plea by Bengaluru resident, Maheshwara M.V., who said it was unconstitutional to exclude single, divorced men from availing surrogacy under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, which restricts eligibility solely to legally married couples and widowed or divorced women, thereby violating the fundamental rights of the petitioner under Articles 14 (right to equality) and 21 (right to a dignified life) of the Constitution.

The petitioner, represented by advocate Mohini Priya, urged the court for a judicial declaration of his right to exercise his constitutionally protected right to reproductive autonomy and become a biological parent through gestational surrogacy using his own gametes and donor eggs, as facilitated under the Surrogacy Act.

The plea said the legitimate aspiration of single divorced men to avail surrogacy was unjustly, irrationally and arbitrarily denied solely on the grounds of gender and marital status, despite the very same Act expressly permitting divorced women aged 35-45 to access surrogacy.

SUDOKU

2					5		3	1
4		6	9					
	7			1				
	2			4		9		
6		7				5		4
		5		6			1	
				8			5	
					3	1		9
1	3		6					8

No.SS6502 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	5	3	1	6	9	2	7	4
6	7	2	4	3	5	1	8	9
4	1	9	2	7	8	5	3	6
1	9	4	6	2	7	3	5	8
7	2	8	3	5	4	9	6	1
5	3	6	8	9	1	7	4	2
9	4	1	5	8	3	6	2	7
2	8	5	7	1	6	4	9	3
3	6	7	9	4	2	8	1	5

NCERT compresses three subjects into one book for Class 7

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The new social science textbook for Class 7 published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has shrunk what were earlier three separate books for history, geography, and social and political life. Students in Classes 4 and 7 are getting new textbooks for the academic year 2025-26.

Class 7 students will get a single social science text, titled *Exploring Society - India and Beyond (Part 1)*. The new book replaces three earlier books: *Our Pasts - II* for History, *Social and Political Life* (a new subject, earlier introduced in middle school, which replaces civics), and *Our Environment* for Geography.

A senior official involved with formulation of new textbooks told *The Hindu* the NCERT was likely to release the second part of the book, titled *Exploring Society - India and Beyond (Part 2)*, for Class 7 in upcoming months. "Part 1 only covers six months' worth of social science study for Class 7, and Part 2 is being envisioned for the next six months."

The new book is structured around five themes: "India and the world: land and the people"; "Tapestry of the past"; "Our cultural heritage and knowledge traditions"; "Governance and democracy"; and "Economic life around us".

The new book is titled *Exploring Society - India and Beyond (Part 1)*; second part is likely to be released soon. FILE PHOTO

Part 1 timeline

While the previous Class 7 history textbook started its account at the 7th century AD, Part 1 of the new textbook covers the earlier period from 1900 BCE to 300 BCE and culminates with the period between the 6th and 9th century AD. The text also features many Sanskrit terms along with diacritics, the marks used over letters to encourage the correct pronunciation of Sanskrit words.

While the old textbook mentions Persian chronicler Minhaj-I-Siraaj, Mughal Emperor Babur, and the 14th century poet who used the terms "Hindustan" and "Hind", the new textbook mentions the origins of Bharat, and India.

Some of these changes follow from the revisions made to Class 6 textbooks last year. The old Class 6 history textbook had covered the kingdoms of ancient India in detail, but this content was left out of the new Class 6 textbook and has now been included in the Class 7 text instead. The new Class 7 textbook's history content deals in detail with ancient India and ends with the fall of the Gupta Empire between the 5th and 6th century AD. The old Class 7 textbook only had one chapter dedicated to select Indian dynasties, between the 7th and 12th century AD and did not have as much in-depth content on the Mauryan, Gupta and other regional Indian empires as the new text does.

No sultans, Mughals

The older Class 7 textbook also covered the rise of the Delhi Sultanate between the 12th and 15th centuries, as the Rajput dynasty gave way to the onslaught of early Turkish rulers, the Khiljis, Tughlaqs, Sayyids, and Lodis, and later in the 16th century, to the Mughals.

Because Part 1 of the new textbook ends at the Gupta Empire, students will not be introduced to the rise of the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughals at least in the first half of Class 7. It remains to be seen whether these chapters of the consequent historical timeline will be included in Part 2 of the new Class 7 textbook.

Ancient kingdoms

The new consolidated book's second theme on the "Tapestry of the past" has four chapters dedicated to history. The fourth chapter, "New neginnings: cities and states", begins with a quote from Kautilya's *Arthashastra* and a picture of the Rajgir ruins from the Magadha empire. It introduces the concept of the Janapadas and Mahajanapadas, including Gandhara, Kuru, Matsya, Avanti, Chedi, Kosala, Magadha and so on, dating back to the end of the 2nd millennium BCE. There is also a mention of the Varna-Jati system that emerged from Vedic texts.

The fifth chapter, "The rise of empires", mentions Pataliputra, the rise of Magadha, the Mauryas, the Greek Invasion, and the reign of Ashoka.

INBRIEF

M&M to acquire 59% stake in SML Isuzu for ₹555 crore

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) said it had entered into an agreement to acquire 58.96% stake in SML Isuzu Ltd. (SML) at ₹650 per share, which is an outlay of ₹555 crore. "The proposed acquisition is a step towards establishing a strong presence in the 3.5T CV segment, where M&M has a 3% market share today, as compared to a 52% market share in the 3.5T LCV segment," M&M said in a statement.

Aurobindo's biosimilar for breast cancer gets panel nod

Aurobindo Pharma subsidiary CuraTeQ Biologics' biosimilar for breast cancer has been recommended for marketing authorisation by the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) "for the treatment of HER2-positive metastatic and early breast cancers," Aurobindo Pharma said in a press release. Upon European Commission's approval expected in July, it will be available across EU member states.

Alembic Pharma commissions ₹205 cr. formulations plant

Alembic Pharmaceuticals said it has commissioned a new facility in Pithampur Madhya Pradesh for manufacturing formulations. The facility has been set up with an investment of around ₹205 crore, which the company raised through internal accruals/borrowings. On the existing capacity and utilisation, the company said in a filing on Saturday it had multiple manufacturing facilities for formulations and their capacities were being optimally utilised.

GAIL, CONCOR ink pact for LNG use for logistics fleet

GAIL (India) and Container Corporation of India have signed an MoU to assess the feasibility of using Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as fuel for CONCOR's logistics fleet. The collaboration seeks to harness LNG's advantages as a cleaner and more cost-effective alternative to diesel, which could result in reduced emissions and lower operational costs, GAIL said post signing of the MoU in the presence of Director (Marketing) Sanjay Kumar and CONCOR CMD Sanjay Swarup.

'Sarvam AI, first firm to get govt. aid to build AI model'

Bengaluru-based firm to get access to a pool of graphics processing units acquired under the government's IndiaAI Mission; company says its model will be fluent in Indian languages

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bengaluru-based Sarvam AI will be the first company to receive government support to build an indigenous AI large language model (LLM), Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday. He was speaking at the unveiling of the guidelines for the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS).

Sarvam AI, founded in mid-2023, will have access to a pool of graphics processing units (GPUs) acquired under the government's IndiaAI Mission.

Way forward: Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw unveiling the ECMS Guidelines and Portal, in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

GPUs are essential parts of developing and deploying AI. Sarvam will have access to 400 of the over 14,000 GPUs in that cluster for a period of six months.

An LLM is a computationally intensive undertaking, and modern ones have billions of parameters, trained on trillions of "tokens," a process where GPUs are key. "The model will be fluent in Indian languages, designed for voice, capable of reasoning, and ready for secure, population-scale deployment," Sarvam said.

"350 datasets have been uploaded in AI Kosh," a portal the government has set up to host structured data that may be useful for AI developers in India, Mr. Vaishnaw said. "The tools and technologies we had requested from the IITs and other institutes to prepare under the India AI Safety Institute [initiative] are also almost completed."

'Ather Energy to deepen distribution, expand nationwide'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Revenue from operations grew by 329% between FY22 and FY24. FILE PHOTO

IPO bound Ather Energy Ltd plans to deepen its electric two-wheeler distribution in South India and expand its network in the west, north and eastern regions.

The company leads the market in South India, except Telangana, as per data from the Vahan portal at the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). The firm sold 46,230 units from October 2024 to March 2025, which is 22% of the e2w market share for the six months.

CRISIL in a report said, the southern zone alone accounted for about 33% of total e2w sales, while 48% of Ather's experience centres, or dealership is located there, which contributed 68% sales in FY24.

South zone leads

The south zone accounted for 65,914 of the total 107,983 units sold for the 9MFY25 period while west, north, east and central zones contributed 16,812, 10,471, 7,230 and 6,338 units respectively.

The firm has 266 dealerships while its peers have 700-800, indicating significant headroom for growth.

Tarun Mehta, ED & CEO, Ather Energy told *The Hindu*, "This affords our company a variety of potential markets to expand our distribution network. With our entry into the convenience scooter segment through the launch of the Ather Rizta, we are able to address a larger portion of the scooter market."

Third party retailers

"We aim to partner with third-party retailers to expand our network of experience and service centres, especially in less penetrated regions, to grow our customer base," he added.

Ather's revenue from operations grew by 329% between FY22 and FY24, and by 28% in 9MFY25, as per Axis Capital report.

The 9MFY25 losses narrowed by nearly 35% on a year-on-year basis to ₹577 crore from ₹776 crore. The firm will continue its focus on unit economics, as per the report.

Axis Capital said Ather's vehicle sales grew 45% to 1,07,983 units in 9MFY25 from 74,333 in 9MFY24. The adjusted gross margins more than doubled to 19% in 9MFY25 from 9%.

Chola Investment posts Q4 consolidated PAT at ₹1,259.54 crore

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. said it had recorded consolidated profit after tax (PAT) for the January-March 2025 quarter at ₹1,259.54 crore.

The financial services arm of the Murugappa Group, had registered a PAT of ₹1,065.23 crore during the corresponding quarter of last financial year. For the financial year ending March 31, 2025, PAT surged to ₹4,262.70 crore, from ₹3,420.06 crore registered in the year-ago period.

Consolidated total income for the January-March 2025 quarter soared to ₹7,136.91 crore, compared with ₹5,499.16 crore registered in the year ago.

India Cements turns ₹14.68 cr. profit in Q4; revenue declines 3.11%

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The India Cements Ltd. on Saturday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹14.68 crore for the quarter ended in March 2025. It had reported a net loss of ₹60.55 crore in the January-March period a year ago, according to a BSE filing. However, revenue from operations was down 3.1% to ₹1,197.30 crore in the March quarter. This was at ₹1,235.74 crore in the corresponding quarter last fiscal. Total expenses were at ₹1,313.2 crore, down marginally in the March quarter. Total expenses were at ₹1,313.2 crore, down marginally in the March quarter.

Total income, which includes other income, declined 2.52% to ₹1,255.66 crore in the March quarter.

RBI slaps penalties on Indian Bank, IOB

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of more than ₹1.61 crore on Indian Bank and ₹63.60 lakh on Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) for non-compliance with certain directions it had issued.

The penalty on Indian Bank is for non transfer of eligible amount to Depositor Education and Awareness Fund within the prescribed period and non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on interest rate on advances; Kisan Credit Card Scheme; and lending to the MSME sector.

In a filing, Indian Bank said it has taken necessary preventive actions to avoid recurrence.

IOB said in a filing that the penalty of ₹63.60 lakh imposed by RBI was for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the central bank on credit flow to collateral free agricultural loans and lending to MSMEs.

CPCL FY25 net slumps to ₹174 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (CPCL) reported standalone net profit slumped to ₹174 crore for FY25 from ₹2,711 crore in the year earlier as gross refining margin (GRM) slid sharply amid softening of global crude prices.

The GRM was $4.22 a barrel as against $8.64/bbl in the previous financial year. The lower net profit came on a more than 10% decline in revenue from operations at ₹71,050 crore (₹79,272 crore).

The crude thruput of the Indian Oil Corporation group company during FY25 was also lower at 10.454 million tonnes (11.642 MT).

CPCL has declared a dividend of ₹5 per equity share (face value of ₹10 each) for FY25.

The Board of Directors recommended preference dividend of 6.65% on the outstanding preference shares amounting to ₹33.25 crore for the fiscal.

தமிழ்நாடு உடற்கல்வியியல் மற்றும் விளையாட்டுப் பல்கலைக்கழகம்
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Phone No: 044-27477906 Email: regularadmissiontnpesu@gmail.com, Website: **www.tnpesu.org**

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION - REGULAR PROGRAMME 2025-2026

S.No	Programme Name	Duration
	UG Programme	
1	B.P.E.S., (Bachelor of Physical Education and Sports)	3 Years
2	B.Sc., Sports Bio Mechanics and Kinesiology	3 Years
3	B.Sc., Exercise Physiology & Nutrition	3 Years
4	B.Sc., Yoga	3 Years
5	B.Sc., Sports Coaching	3 Years
	Teacher Education Programme in Physical Education	
1	B.P.Ed., (Bachelor of Physical Education)	2 Years
2	M.P.Ed., (Master of Physical Education)	2 Years
	PG Programme	
1	M.Sc Yoga	2 Years
2	M.Sc Exercise Physiology and Nutrition	2 Years
3	M.Sc., Sports Bio Mechanics and Kinesiology	2 Years
4	M.B.A., Sports Management	2 Years
5	M.Sc Sports Psychology and Sociology	2 Years
6	M.Sc., Sports Psychology	2 Years
7	M.Sc., Sports Coaching	2 Years
8	M.Tech., Sports Technology	2 Years

Registration can be done only through online for all programmes. Scanned copies of educational qualifications should be enclosed. All types of fee are non-refundable. The filled in application along with the attachments must be downloaded and hard copy must be submitted at the time of admission. For eligibility criteria and instructions visit our website **www.tnpesu.org.**

The Application for the admission can be done through tnpesuonline.in link in **www.tnpesu.org** Application Processing fee paid through online, by Credit Card/ Debit Card/Net Banking Only. Bank Pay Order/Challan etc., will not be accepted. Fee once paid will not be refunded.

IMPORTANT DATES
Online Application will be opened on : 02.05.2025
Last Date for online Application : UG Programmes:31.05.2025
PG Programmes and Teacher Education Programmes in Physical Education :30.06.2025

Place : Chennai
Date : 27.04.2025
DIPR/416/DISPLAY/2025
Dr.R.Ramakrishnan
REGISTRAR i/c

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EXTRACT OF THE STATEMENT OF AUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2025

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No	Particulars	STANDALONE					CONSOLIDATED				
		THREE MONTHS ENDED			YEAR ENDED		THREE MONTHS ENDED			YEAR ENDED	
		31.03.2025	31.12.2024	31.03.2024	31.03.2025	31.03.2024	31.03.2025	31.12.2024	31.03.2024	31.03.2025	31.03.2024
		Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total income from operations	20592.98	15687.64	20826.44	71093.43	79285.50	20593.00	15687.64	20826.45	71075.19	79283.01
2	**Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)**	**581.71**	**14.12**	**843.52**	**208.10**	**3659.87**	**601.68**	**24.44**	**859.03**	**248.66**	**3693.69**
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	581.71	14.12	843.52	208.10	3659.87	601.68	24.44	859.03	248.66	3693.69
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	449.96	10.46	612.38	173.53	2711.25	469.93	20.78	627.89	214.09	2745.07
5	**Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]**	**447.25**	**11.75**	**615.19**	**164.55**	**2714.06**	**466.85**	**22.07**	**630.72**	**204.74**	**2747.90**
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - ₹ 10 each)	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)				7539.55	8194.01				7807.70	8421.97
8	Securities Premium Account				250.04	250.04				250.04	250.04
9	Networth				7938.50	8592.96				8206.65	8820.92
10	Paid up Debt Captial / Outstanding Debt (Bonds / Debentures) excluding Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares				810.00	1585.00				810.00	1585.00
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares (50,00,00,000 (2024:50,00,00,000) Non-Convertible Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of ₹ 10 each) (Not listed)				500.00	500.00				500.00	500.00
12	Debt Equity Ratio				0.39	0.32				0.38	0.31
13	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)										
	(i) Basic (₹ / share)	30.22	0.70	41.12	11.65	182.07	31.56	1.40	42.17	14.38	184.34
	(ii) Diluted (₹ / share)	30.22	0.70	41.12	11.65	182.07	31.56	1.40	42.17	14.38	184.34
14	Capital Redemption Reserve				1000.00	1000.00				1000.00	1000.00
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve				-	-				-	-
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio				0.90	10.79				0.93	10.89
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio				4.33	20.10				4.50	20.26

Note :
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites: www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com. The same is also available on the company's website www.cpcl.co.in
2 For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to Stock Exchanges (BSE and NSE) and can be acessed on www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Rohit Kumar Agrawala
Director (Finance)
DIN: 10048961

Place : Chennai
Date : April 25, 2025

Assessing temperature-related deaths in urban heat islands

The Hindu Bureau

Cities having higher ambient temperatures than rural surroundings (known as the urban heat island effect) could offset some of the negative effects of increased heat-related mortality by reducing the number of deaths associated with cold exposure in some global cities, according to a study in Nature Climate Change.

These findings highlight the importance of developing region- and season-specific strategies to mitigate the urban heat island effect.

Dual impact

The urban heat island effect contributes to an increase in human heat exposure and subsequent death globally during hotter seasons. However, this phenomenon could also impact the rate of cold-related deaths in cooler conditions. This dual impact could vary across regions and seasons, but previous research has often focused on the effect at the local scale. In the context of climate change and rapid urbanisation, it is important to understand the broader impact of the urban heat island effect on both heat- and cold-related deaths for urban heat mitigation strategies.

Dr. Wenfeng Zhan from Nanjing University, Nanjing, China and others analysed multiple data sources, including remote sensing data and climate and socioeconomic factors (such as Gross Domestic Product), to establish mortality-temperature relationships across more than 3,000 cities worldwide. They found that the reduction in cold-related mortality under the urban heat island effect is 4.4 times greater than the increase in heat-related mortality in 2018.

The authors further observed that cities at high latitudes saw an even higher reduction – Moscow, for example, saw a reduction in cold-related deaths that was 11.5 times greater than those associated with heat. The authors further analysed the role of increasing vegetation and the reflectivity of buildings (albedo), which are current strategies to mitigate the urban heat island effect.

They found that these strategies could result in an increase in cold-related deaths that surpasses heat-related deaths globally depending on the magnitude of the intervention and the season in which it is implemented.

The authors emphasise that their findings should not be interpreted as downplaying the negative health outcomes of the urban heat island effect but instead offer crucial insights into the specifics of its impact across seasons. They further suggest that cities must take a seasonal approach to mitigating the urban heat island effect.

Telangana had more preventable C-sections among southern States

At 3.1%, Kerala had the lowest number of preventable C-sections, while Telangana had the highest at 8.4%. Preventable C-sections were 5.4% for Andhra Pradesh, 6.2% for Karnataka, and 7% for Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau

A study found that preventable Caesarean sections or C-sections constitute between 3.1% and 8.4% of all deliveries in the southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana. Among the 21,499 women studied, the percentage of preventable C-sections was 6.2%, and the percentage of C-sections was 44.3%. The percentage of preventable C-sections among overall C-section deliveries was 13.9%.

At 3.1%, Kerala had the lowest number of preventable C-sections, while Telangana had the highest at 8.4%. Preventable C-sections were 5.4% for Andhra Pradesh, 6.2% for Karnataka, and 7% for Tamil Nadu. Preventable C-section was defined as a C-section delivery that was not planned prior to the onset of labour, conducted at full term, and done without any intrapartum complications such as breech presentation, transverse lie, prolonged labour, and excessive bleeding.

The classification was based on gestational age, mode of delivery, timing of the decision, and absence of intrapartum complications.

Besides high out-of-pocket expenses, preventable C-sections result in "inefficient use of health system resources, intraoperative risk, and post-operative complications that impact the mother's and child's future health", notes the study.

Compared with NFHS-4, C-section deliveries in private hospitals increased by 17% in NFHS-5

Health impact: There are intraoperative risk and post-operative complications with C-section deliveries.

1. Among the 21,499 women in the 15-49 years age group studied, the percentage of preventable C-sections was 6.2% and the percentage of C-sections was 44.3%
2. Preventable C-section is one that is not planned prior to the onset of labour, conducted at full term, and done without any intrapartum complications
3. In Kerala, 73.26% of C-section deliveries were planned prior to the onset of labour and was the highest among the five southern States
4. Around 45% of C-section deliveries in Karnataka were decided after the onset of labour
5. The most common delivery complication among C-section deliveries in Kerala (34.97%) was breech presentation
6. Prolonged labour and excessive bleeding were the most common complications in other States, leading to C-section deliveries
7. The proportion of C-section deliveries and preventable C-section deliveries were higher in mothers aged 25-34 years
8. Preventable C-section deliveries were higher among first-time mothers

The study included 21,499 women in the age group 15-49 years who had given birth within the last five years. Data from the National Family Health Survey-5 was used in this study. The study was published on April 23, 2025 in the journal PLOS ONE.

At 96.5%, institutional deliveries are indeed high in the southern States and comparable with some of the countries in Western Europe and North America. These States also have substantially higher percentage of C-section deliveries – 31.5% to 60.7% – possibly due to high percentage of institutional deliveries.

In Kerala, 73.26% of C-section deliveries were planned prior to the onset of labour and were the highest among the five States studied. While deciding on C-sections before the onset of labour does indicate access to high-quality antenatal care, it might also reflect that a significant proportion of mothers might be opting for an elective C-section.

Compared with Kerala, around 45% of C-section deliveries in Karnataka were decided after the onset of labour, the study carried out by Population Council Consulting, New Delhi, AIIMS Delhi, and TISS, Mumbai found.

The most common delivery complication among C-section deliveries in Kerala (34.97%) was breech presentation, while prolonged labour and excessive bleeding were the most common complications in other States. Excessive bleeding was the most common complication observed in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

According to the study, the risk of post-partum haemorrhage is strongly associated with the absence of antenatal care.

The study found that the proportion of C-section deliveries, as well as preventable C-section deliveries, was higher in mothers aged 25-34 years.

"Mothers with higher education – primary schooling and above – have at least a 30% greater chance of undergoing a preventable C-section compared to those without education," they write. "Higher prevalence was found among uninsured, richer, and unemployed women, and higher preventable C-sections were found to occur with increased antenatal care visits and in private health care facilities."

It also found that primi-mothers (first-time mothers or mothers who are pregnant with their first child) had higher odds of preventable C-section deliveries. In the five States, 37% of all mothers were primi-mothers, and at least 18% of primi-mothers had opted for C-section deliveries. "Given that a previous C-section is an indication for C-section in future pregnancies, special attention is required to avoid preventable C-section among primi-mothers," the authors write.

One reason for higher preventable C-sections could be because mothers are coupling sterilisation and C-section deliveries. Among the 21,499 women studied, sterilisation rates ranged between 27.1% and 50.1% across the five States.

As per the NFHS-4 data, sterilisation rates among women aged 15-49 years was 37% in India. High C-section rates reported in NFHS-5 could be due to high preventable C-section rates among primi-mothers and those combining C-section with sterilisation when it is last-order births, they say.

The mothers who delivered in private healthcare facilities were nearly three times more likely to opt for preventable C-sections compared with mothers who delivered in a public healthcare facility. As per the study, private facilities account for 29.6% of all institutional deliveries, and 48% of all deliveries in the private sector were C-section deliveries.

Compared with NFHS-4, C-section deliveries in private hospitals increased by 17% in NFHS-5.

No phenotype details in GenomeIndia's proposal call

R. Prasad

On January 9, 2025, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) called for proposals on 'Translational research using genomeIndia data' from scientists based in India. On February 20, eight days before the February 28 deadline for submitting proposals, DBT extended the deadline till March 31, 2025.

The 10,000 human genome project had collected blood samples and associated phenotype data from over 20,000 individuals representing 83 population groups – 30 tribal and 53 non-tribal populations – spread across India. The preliminary findings based on the genetic information of 9,772 individuals were published in the journal Nature Genetics as a Comment on April 8.

The Comment article clearly listed the phenotype data collected from over 20,000 people, including height, weight, hip circumference, waist circumference and blood pressure. From blood samples collected, complete blood counts as well as biochemistry data such as glucose measurements, lipid profiles, and liver and kidney function tests were measured and are available along with genome data of 9,772 individuals. Surprisingly, neither the first proposal call nor the addendum extending the deadline for submitting the proposals listed what phenotype data were available to researchers. Even the GenomeIndia website does not have that information. The first time that information became public was when the Comment article was published on April 8. But the deadline for submitting the proposals was March 31.

Oversight: DBT has completed the proposal call without disclosing what phenotype data are available. ISTOCKPHOTO

"The anthropometric and blood biochemistry data were only collected to ensure that the samples covered under the GenomeIndia project were from healthy individuals," says a DBT spokesperson in an email to *The Hindu*.

"The GenomeIndia project has not published a data dictionary nor released detailed information on the available phenotype metadata of the genotyped samples in the project. A Commentary in the Nature Genetics journal has been the first and only public communication about the details of phenotype metadata in the project, till date. Even before the publication of this article, DBT has completed a proposal inviting researchers for utilising the GenomeIndia data," says Dr. Padmanaban V., Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry at CMC Vellore.

Incidentally, the addendum published on February 20 extending the deadline to March 31 noted that DBT had "received many queries regarding the type of data that will be released". Despite saying "relevant phenotype data (as per request)" will be provided under Controlled (Managed) Access, what phenotype data that were available was not provided. "Despite admitting that there have been many queries related to the data, there still wasn't any information on the list of available phenotypes that researchers can request even in this document," says Dr. Padmanaban.

Also, the Comment piece published in the journal, which is the only place the phenotype data collected and available, was mentioned, is behind a paywall.

The spokesperson points out that the One Nation One Subscription scheme will provide access to research articles and journal publications to students, faculty and researchers. However, the One Nation One Subscription scheme currently provides free access to journal papers to researchers and students only from public institutions.

While researchers from 20 institutions involved in the GenomeIndia project would be aware of the phenotype data available, others would be unaware of it. "Researchers who were not part of the GenomeIndia project team did not have information on the available phenotype metadata till the call for proposal deadline," says Dr. Padmanaban.

SNAPSHOTS

Study identifies how malaria can lead to childhood cancer

New data has uncovered the role of *Plasmodium falciparum* infection (malaria) in the development of Burkitt lymphoma (BL), the most common childhood cancer in equatorial Africa and New Guinea. The study found significant elevated expression of an enzyme called AID (activation-induced cytidine deaminase) in B cells during *P. falciparum* malaria in children, which points to the direct role of *P. falciparum* malaria in BL due to the role of the enzyme in the development of Burkitt lymphoma.

Birds hold remarkable clues to fighting human infections

Researchers have uncovered an evolutionary adaptation in birds that could hold vital clues for combating avian flu and respiratory infections in humans. The molecular evolution of specific types of proteins (CL-10 and CL-11) in bird lungs has a role in recognising and neutralising harmful microbes. These ancient proteins appear to compensate for the evolutionary loss of the surfactant protein D (SP-D), a key immune component in humans and other mammals that helps protect the lungs from airborne pathogens.

Daily doses of peanuts tackle allergic reactions in adults

The first clinical trial to test whether adults allergic to peanuts can be desensitised has shown great success with two-thirds of the cohort consuming the equivalent of five peanuts without reacting. Participants of the trial then could consume peanuts every day at home to remain desensitised. Although peanut immunotherapy is known to be effective in children, this trial provides preliminary evidence that adults can also be desensitised.

Question Corner

Oldest ant

Which is the oldest ant ever discovered?

A hell ant species that lived 113 million years ago in northeastern Brazil was recently discovered. The hell ant, which was preserved as a rock impression in limestone, is a member of Haidomyrmecinae, an extinct subfamily that only lived during the Cretaceous period. These ants had highly specialised, scythe-like jaws that they likely used to pin or impale prey. The existence of hell ant in Brazil shows that ants were already widely distributed and diversified early in their evolution. These ants had specialised features. Unlike modern ants with laterally moving mandibles, this species possessed mandibles that ran forward parallel to the head and facial projection anterior to the eyes. The intricate morphology suggests that even these earliest ants had already evolved sophisticated predatory strategies. While the ant species provides the most complete evidence for the early evolution of ants in the fossil record, the specialised feature also raises broader questions about the evolutionary pressures.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Why is UPI seeing frequent downtimes?

What are regulators doing about it? How does the Unified Payments Interface work?

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

In March and April, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system went down three times, causing significant disruptions in payments on apps like GPay and PhonePe, which rely on the system. One of the downtimes was caused by individual banks flooding the National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) systems with transaction status checks.

How does UPI work?

UPI payments work based on an architecture that was inherited from the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS). For UPI payments to work, a bank is required to join the UPI system and allow users to access their own accounts through a linked phone number, on a Payment Service Provider (PSP)'s app, like PhonePe or GPay. Practically every commercial bank, public or private, is on the UPI system.

UPI is designed as an interoperable system, allowing any bank's account holders to sign up for the service on any app, and even multiple apps at the same time. This resembles a peer-to-peer system, where individual banks are all talking to each other, but in reality, practically every transaction is routed through the systems of the NPCI. "The NPCI is essential in this process," said Srikanth Lakshmanan, a member of the Cashless Consumer project, as it encrypts the PIN information – which only the bank knows – and sends the payment information forward to a payer's bank, which then executes the transaction. "So if there's a downtime in the NPCI, there's no way your bank would get your PIN. This is where it is a single point of failure."

> UPI is designed as an interoperable system, allowing any bank's account holders to sign up for the service on any app, and even multiple apps. Every transaction is routed through the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

Why did the NPCI have several outages?

The NPCI as an organisation is structured as a collective of banks, with public sector banks holding the bulk of its shareholding. This, Mr. Lakshmanan said, is because of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, which mandates that organisations involved in clearing transactions in bulk have to be majority-owned by public sector banks. Led as it is by banks, the implementation too is largely left to them, though the NPCI has played a big role in designing and presiding over the UPI system. In the last few weeks, individual banks reportedly flooded the UPI system with "check transaction" requests, which payer banks use to verify that a payment has been completed. That hit the single point of failure at NPCI, and took the system offline briefly. To reduce the impact of downtime like this, the NPCI has created something called UPI Lite, which allows users to set aside up to ₹2,000 for payments without having to punch in a PIN. But even such payments go through the NPCI's systems. "You don't do a PIN authentication, but other communication still goes through NPCI," Mr. Lakshmanan said. "The NPCI has to say this transaction originated from your device and so on. This is why even though UPI Lite doesn't involve the PIN entry and decryption, it is still routed through NPCI since it's fundamentally an interoperable system. While UPI Lite is light, it still requires NPCI to be in the middle."

Why are banks peeved?

Banks have historically had a rocky relationship with UPI. While the system has revolutionised payments in India – just on Friday, there were over 58 crore transactions worth over ₹73,000 crore – they are largely unable to collect any significant fees on transactions, even though there are costs attached to each of these.

The RBI estimated that banks incur a cost of ₹0.80 per transaction, due to SMS notification costs (which telecom operators collect for commercial messages), and the costs incurred in maintaining and updating records of each payment. However, they are not able to charge a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) for these services, leaving them with few incentives to keep to rigorous uptime standards. Individual banks go down far more frequently than the NPCI as a whole, and these outages result in increased payment decline events. System-wide downtimes are far fewer and shorter on commercial card networks like MasterCard and Visa, Mr. Lakshmanan said, as there is robust monitoring and service level agreements to enforce performance standards.

However, he said, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has tried a "carrot and stick" approach, with its annual UPI incentive programme for banks, which comes attached with conditions that penalise banks whose performance suffers over the course of a year. The subsidy scheme compensates banks for their current inability to charge an MDR. "If you're at the bottom [in terms of uptime], you get nothing," Mr. Lakshmanan said.

How did WHO nations strike a pandemic deal?

What are the highlights of the new agreement? Why was it long overdue? What challenges did countries face during negotiations? How will it impact global cooperation and equity in the next pandemic? Has a balance been struck between global equity and market-based innovation?

Athira Elssa Johnson

The story so far:

After more than three years of intense negotiations involving over 190 countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) has finalised a historic pandemic accord aimed at preventing and responding to future global health crises. The agreement was reached during a marathon session at the WHO headquarters in Geneva and concluded in the early hours of April 16, 2025.

Why was it needed?

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO director-general, called it "a significant milestone in our shared journey towards a safer world," emphasising the importance of global solidarity in facing health emergencies. The agreement comes five years after the outbreak of COVID-19, a pandemic that laid bare the vulnerabilities of international health systems. With the growing threat of infectious diseases such as H5N1 bird flu, mpox, measles, and Ebola, the sense of urgency among negotiators was palpable.

The centrepiece of the newly adopted agreement is the proposed Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System (PABS), which is designed to facilitate the swift sharing of pathogen data among nations and with pharmaceutical companies. This data-sharing mechanism is expected to play a critical role in accelerating the development of vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments during future pandemics. The agreement outlines a system where cooperation becomes not just ideal, but operationally necessary, enabling scientific collaboration at an unprecedented pace. It also includes provisions to ensure fair and equitable access to pandemic-related health products, particularly for low- and middle-income countries that were left behind during the COVID-19 response.

> 'This accord shows that global multilateralism is still possible – even in a fragmented geopolitical environment'

The COVID crisis had seen wealthier nations securing vast supplies of vaccines, testing kits, and protective equipment, while many poorer countries struggled with shortages and delays. The new deal directly addresses these imbalances by introducing guidelines aimed at preventing such inequities from recurring.

Technology transfer was one of the most debated aspects of the agreement. Developing countries pushed for language that would mandate the sharing of critical health technologies during pandemics. However, countries with powerful pharmaceutical industries resisted such mandatory provisions, citing concerns about intellectual property rights and innovation incentives. A compromise was eventually reached, with the final text stating that any technology transfer must be "mutually agreed," a clause designed to balance the needs of global equity with the business realities of pharmaceutical innovation. The 32-page document was marked entirely in green, indicating complete consensus among the participating countries.

Historic feat: WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus smiling after a consensus was reached at the WHO headquarters on April 16. AFP

What gaps did the pandemic expose?

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed serious gaps in the world's ability to mount a coordinated response to global health emergencies. These gaps included fragmented and delayed data sharing, unequal access to vaccines and other medical tools, lack of standardised protocols, and limited international accountability. Many nations acted in isolation, often hoarding resources or closing borders in panic, which hindered collective efforts and prolonged the pandemic's impact. Although initiatives like COVAX attempted to create more equitable access to vaccines, they were hampered by underfunding, supply chain challenges, and a lack of global cooperation.

Public health experts have long warned that without a globally accepted and legally grounded framework, the world risks repeating the same mistakes in the face of future outbreaks. In an increasingly interconnected world, where viruses can cross borders in hours, pandemics are no longer national crises – they are shared threats.

What were the key challenges?

Negotiations were deeply complex and often stalled due to diverging national interests. Article 11 of the agreement, which deals with the transfer of pandemic-related technologies, became a major sticking point. Low- and middle-income countries argued that equitable access to life-saving innovations like vaccines, antivirals, and diagnostics could not be guaranteed unless there was a mechanism for sharing intellectual property and manufacturing know-how. On the other hand, nations with large pharmaceutical industries, particularly in Europe, opposed any language that would make such transfers obligatory. They contended that mandatory provisions could undermine the financial incentives needed for rapid pharmaceutical innovation and would interfere with existing international trade laws. The compromise to allow "mutually agreed" transfers reflects a diplomatic middle ground, though some critics argue it lacks enforceability and may not protect vulnerable populations.

Will it shape global cooperation?

One of the crucial aspects of the agreement is its strong emphasis on equity. The WHO chief highlighted that the text reflects a broader commitment to fairness in access, especially for countries that often bear the brunt of health crises without the resources to respond adequately. The agreement acknowledges that pandemic preparedness is not just about stockpiling vaccines or hospital beds; it's about establishing a framework for transparency, trust, and timely action. For lower-income countries, the agreement promises capacity building and international support to strengthen health infrastructure and logistics. Although equity is central to the agreement's language, its realisation will depend heavily on political will and practical implementation. Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and co-chair of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, noted that this accord shows that global multilateralism is still possible – even in a fragmented geopolitical environment. David Reddy, director-general of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA), remarked that while the agreement is a useful starting point, certain conditions must be met to maintain industry participation in pandemic preparedness. He emphasised the need for legal certainty and protection of intellectual property if companies are to continue investing in the research and development of high-risk, high-cost medical solutions. The industry fears that poorly designed policy interventions could discourage innovation or delay crucial products.

What lies ahead?

While the agreement has been finalised, member states will be expected to integrate its principles into national laws, establish financing mechanisms, and develop monitoring systems that ensure compliance. The agreement will be presented for formal adoption at the WHO's annual assembly.

What's the reason for targeting Simla Pact?

Why is Pakistan threatening to hold the 1972 agreement in abeyance? What are the implications? Haven't both sides reneged on the terms they had agreed on? What will happen to the Line of Control? What are the other agreements that could be put on hold?

Suhasini Haidar

The story so far:

In response to India's decision to suspend the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistan's government said it could hold the 1972 Simla Agreement and "all other bilateral agreements with India" in abeyance.

What does the Simla Agreement entail?

The agreement was signed in Shimla on July 2, 1972 after three days of talks between Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, victorious from the 1971 Bangladesh War, and Pakistan Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who had suffered a crushing defeat and the division of Pakistan in the war. The talks, for which the Soviet Union did much of the preparatory discussions through Indian and Pakistani envoys in Moscow, focused on two major issues. First, the future of post-war ties between India and Pakistan, including the return of more than 93,000 Pakistan prisoners of war; second, the resolution of the dispute over Jammu and Kashmir, where they agreed to "settle their differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations or by any other peaceful means mutually agreed upon between them". In addition, the Simla agreement saw the first formal recognition of Bangladesh as a sovereign entity in a bilateral treaty.

> Pakistan has violated the agreement many times, by funding terror groups in Kashmir and sending troops across the LoC

What was the reaction in both countries?

The Simla Agreement led to severe criticism of Mrs. Gandhi in India, for not forcing Pakistan to make the ceasefire line the International Border, instead renaming it the Line of Control (LoC); and of Mr. Bhutto in Pakistan for agreeing to resolve the dispute peacefully and without recourse to the United Nations or other third-party mediators. In Srinagar, Sheikh Abdullah's criticisms stemmed from the fact that neither side had consulted the Kashmiri people.

How has Pakistan violated the pact?

In the years that followed, Pakistan violated the agreement many times, by funding and arming terror groups in Kashmir as well as sending troops across the LoC that led to the Kargil conflict in 1999. It has approached the UN and other countries over the issue, which is a breach of the terms both sides had agreed upon. The Indian Parliament's declaration in 1994 that all of Kashmir including Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, was an integral part of India, and the 2019 amendment of Article 370, had made the Simla agreement quite irrelevant. Former diplomat Avtar Singh Bhasin, who profiled the agreement in his book, *Negotiating India's Landmark Agreements*, says the impact of the announcement will be "minimal or nothing on both sides". He says that "the Simla Agreement was not meant as a long-standing agreement – and most of it – return of [Pakistani] POWs, restoration of trade, transport, telecommunication linkages were meant to happen immediately after," and calls the paragraphs on J&K "essentially symbolic".

Breaking ties: Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistan President Z.A. Bhutto signing the Simla Agreement on July 2, 1972. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

What will be the impact?

It should be noted that the statement issued by the Pakistan PMO on April 24 said that "Pakistan shall exercise the right to hold all bilateral agreements with India including but not limited to Simla Agreement in abeyance", leaving it unclear whether Islamabad had issued any formal notification on the issue. India has not received any letter from Pakistan on the matter. The immediate impact would be seen in terms of its meaning for the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, and whether Pakistan will now also disavow the LoC that was first named in the Simla accord. Analysts suggest that if Pakistan attempts to cross it, India could also then disregard the LoC and launch operations to claim parts of Pakistan occupied Kashmir.

What are the 'other agreements' that Pakistan referred to that could be affected?

While Pakistan did not name any other agreement by name, the Shehbaz Sharif government's reference to "all other" bilateral agreements could refer to a number of different accords the two countries have signed over the years after being in armed conflict several times from the first Kashmir war in 1948 to Kargil in 1999. The Nehru-Liaquat pact signed in 1950 relates to the treatment of minorities in their respective countries. The Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Pilgrimages signed in 1974 facilitates hundreds of Hindu and Sikh pilgrims to 15 temples and gurdwaras in Pakistan, as well as Muslim pilgrims to five mosques and shrines in India. For the moment, both sides have indicated that the Kartarpur corridor agreement in 2019 between the Narendra Modi and Imran Khan governments will remain in place.

Other agreements, that relate to confidence-building measures and information sharing could also be affected. In 1988, India and Pakistan signed an agreement to inform each other of their nuclear installations and facilities every year on January 1. In 1991, they signed an agreement for the pre-notification of flight testing of all ballistic missiles, as well as an agreement on preventing airspace violations. Since February 2021, India and Pakistan have a ceasefire agreement in place, that was first agreed to in 2003. Any military operation by India on terror camps or other locations in Pakistan, to which Pakistan has threatened to retaliate, could see the ceasefire agreement collapse. In addition, India's decision to suspend the Indus Waters treaty could also have a follow-on effect, with Pakistan threatening to take India to international courts and calling the stoppage of any water an "act of war". While India is an upper riparian state to Pakistan and Bangladesh, it is also a lower riparian state to China, that has on occasion withheld cooperation with India on the Brahmaputra and other rivers. All three neighbouring countries will follow India's actions on the Indus closely.

Storm beneath the waters

Indus Waters Treaty

The 1960 agreement, which India has put in 'abeyance' after the Pahalgam terror attack, had started showing signs of decay in recent years with New Delhi demanding a bilateral modification of the treaty

Kallol Bhattacherjee

PHOTO: PTI

On November 30 1960, the Lok Sabha witnessed an extraordinary debate. The debate was initiated by Congress MP Iqbal Singh from Punjab as Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru looked on. Within seconds, the exchange took a curious turn as several members from the ruling Congress party, who were present in the hall to debate the newly signed Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), began to criticise the Nehru government.

Most surprisingly, during the 150-minutes long discussion, the strongest criticism to the treaty came from the Congress MPs from Punjab and Rajasthan – the two States that were part of the Indus-waters network. H.C. Mathur of the Congress took to the floor and gave out the bitterest criticism, saying the treaty would adversely affect Rajasthan. Iqbal Singh, who started the debate, argued that the treaty would affect food production in Indian Punjab. As Prime Minister Nehru waited for his chance to rise to the defence of the treaty that was signed by him and Gen. Ayub Khan of Pakistan on September 19, 1960, members termed the Indus Waters Treaty "appeasement and surrender to Pakistan". Asoka Mehta of the Congress argued that the country had been betrayed by those who were supposed to defend its interests.

The members of the ruling party that had been overseeing nearly 12-year long river water dispute that began soon after Partition of British India, were upset about the fact that Pakistan would get ₹83 crore in foreign exchange (to be financed by the World Bank) as part of the execution of the treaty. Rising to the defence of the treaty, Nehru described the critics as "narrow-minded" and said, the agreement was arrived at after "long and bitter negotiation" between the two sides mediated by the World Bank. Three weeks later, the Indian Parliament ratified the IWT.

The IWT did not have an exit clause. Article XII (3) and (4) provide for modification of treaty provisions through a "duly ratified treaty", which will replace the present one with the condition that it cannot be abrogated unilaterally. The main treaty provisions were that India has the exclusive rights over the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas and Sutlej) with a combined average annual discharge of 33.8 million Acre Feet (MAF) and Pakistan has exclusive rights over the three western rivers (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab) with annual discharge of 135.6 MAF. As per the treaty, India has the right to store a volume of 3.6 MAF of water.

The "long and bitter negotiation" that Nehru referred to began soon after the Partition of India that led to several lasting problems between the two countries. The problem first flared up in 1947-48 in the backdrop of the first India-Pakistan conflict over Kashmir. While the war over Kashmir was the main focus in the first year of the existence of two newly separated entities, the sub-text of this conflict was visible in the clashing narrative over sharing of the waters of the Indus through the canal system built in Punjab during the British colonial period. Water historians say when India halted water of the Indus, Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan arrived in New Delhi, leading to the 1948 agreement. The water dispute, however, did not disappear, and played out as part of the larger network of issues that defined the India-Pakistan relationship ever since.

While starting from 1951-52 India became a parliamentary democracy with a stable political leadership, Pakistan began a tentative journey towards the future plagued by language problem, rivalry between the West and the East Pakistan and lack of participatory democracy at home. These power rivalries exploded on the surface in the late 1950s when East Pakistan-origin Gen. Isqander Mirza became the President of the struggling country.

World Bank mediation

Mirza scrapped the constitutional dream of Pakistan and prohibited political parties only to be deposed weeks later by Gen. Ayub Khan. The Pakistan that came to the table to conclude the Indus Waters Agreement under the mediation of World Bank chief Eugene Black was therefore a military-ruled state that was in a hurry to prove its domestic critics wrong by resolving certain congenital problems that its political leaders had failed to solve in the previous decade. A settlement of the Indus dispute suited the Nehru government politically as that would remove one of the major festering problems with Pakistan and prove Nehru's critics wrong. A solution suited the Pakistani general as well as the scholarly Indian PM.

Ayub Khan threw a grand welcome for the Indian team and put up a show of internal normalcy at the time of the signing ceremony in Karachi. Nehru travelled across Pakistan and visited Murree, Nathiagali, Rawalpindi and Lahore and both leaders agreed that eradication of poverty was the common goal of both sides. Yet, within weeks of signing the IWT, Gen. Ayub Khan delivered a provocative speech in Muzaffarabad saying, Indo-Pakistan relation would not stabilise "till the Kashmir issue is resolved".

The second test of the IWT came during 1965 Indo-Pak. war when the focus was on Kashmir. Following the Tashkent Accord, Ayub Khan sprang a surprise with the construction of the Mangla dam, the world's largest earthen dam that was inaugurated in 1967 promising to supply water to more than 3 million acres of land and generate 600,000 KW of electricity. One problem with the Mangla dam was that the major part of the project fell in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. In effect, the dam would not violate the sovereignty of India as envisioned in the IWT but in reality it trampled on India's sovereignty in Kashmir. The Parliament in India took up the construction of Mangla dam and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi responded that India's sovereign rights over Pakistan-occupied Kashmir were not diminished by the construction of the Mangla dam.

Water a weapon

In the twenty-first century, China's move to build mega dams in the Himalayas, which revived the prospects of use of water as a weapon among riparian states and the spike in cross-border terrorism from Pakistan, triggered talks of a review of the treaty. In the backdrop of the 2016 arrest of former Indian navy official Kulbhushan Jadhav on charges of supporting terrorism in Balochistan and the cross-border terror attacks in Pathankot and Uri in January and September 2016, India completed the Kishanganga dam in Kashmir and pushed ahead with the Ratle hydel power project on the Chenab despite Pakistan's displeasure. The matter could not be resolved by the World Bank.

In 2023, India invoked the relevant treaty provisions to request a bilateral modification of the treaty that Pakistan declined. Before putting the Indus Waters Treaty 'in abeyance' on April 23, 2025, India in 2024 had indicated that its patience over the IWT was fast running out when it called off all meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission demanding that teams from both sides should meet and discuss the 2023 proposal for modification of the treaty. Post-Pahalgam attack, Indian declaration on holding the treaty 'in abeyance', however, has turned the clock back to where it began – a broken India-Pakistan relation as it was in the late 1940s.

THE GIST

- Within weeks of signing the Indus Waters Treaty in September 1960, Ayub Khan delivered a provocative speech in Muzaffarabad saying, Indo-Pak. relation would not stabilise "till the Kashmir issue is resolved"
- After 1965 Indo-Pak. war, Ayub Khan sprang a surprise with the construction of the Mangla dam in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, which India protested as a breach of its sovereignty
- In 2023, India invoked the relevant treaty provisions to request a bilateral modification of the treaty that Pakistan declined

New face of terror

The Resistance Front

The group, which emerged on the militancy landscape of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, has a well-trained cadre that has carried out targeted killings in the Valley

Peerzada Ashiq

PHOTO: PTI

The killings of 25 tourists, including one Nepali, and a local pony operator by a group of terrorists trained in jungle warfare in a meadow of Pahalgam's Baisaran in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on April 22 shook the entire nation. It turned the spotlight on The Resistance Front (TRF), an outfit that initially claimed responsibility (a claim it later withdrew) for the attack.

Security agencies in Kashmir see the TRF as an offshoot of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The nomenclature, many security experts in Kashmir believe, was aimed at presenting itself as a "new-age ideological force" and distancing itself from other Islamist groups such as al-Qaeda and Jaish-e-Muhammad.

The TRF emerged on the militancy landscape of Jammu and Kashmir after the Centre abrogated the provisions of Article 370 in 2019. Kashmir has seen around two dozen militant outfits active since the militancy started in the 1990s. Many smaller groups have eventually vanished from the scene. The TRF came into the crosshairs of the security agencies in April 2020 when a group of terrorists engaged security forces in a firefight for four days close to the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara's Keran Sector in snow-filled mountain passes. The killing of five elite commandos of the Army in extreme weather conditions in Keran signalled the changing tack and tactics of terrorists in Kashmir.

One senior police official said the major shift the TRF brought was a higher level of training, online propaganda and high-end weaponry and body cameras to film the attacks live and stream them online. The outfit operates on social media platforms "to promote their cause and lure unemployed youth to carry out terror activities", according to the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) probe.

Urban militancy

Around 200 TRF cadres have been killed since 2019 in Kashmir. At present, the TRF, which was mandated by its handlers across the border to revive militancy in urban pockets in Kashmir, remains a faceless outfit. The killing of Muhammad Abbas Sheikh, a resident of Kulgam, in 2021 and Basit Dar, also from Kulgam, in May 2024 left the outfit faceless. According to the police records, Sheikh, who was active since 1996, was the brain behind the TRF's actions and revival of militancy in Srinagar. Dar, who joined the TRF in 2021, was involved in 18 FIRs before being killed in Kulgam in a chance encounter, officials said.

Departing from attacking security forces' patrols and installations, the TRF in 2021 started a series of targeted killings of the members of minorities, including a well-known chemist, Makhan Lal Pandita, and a school principal, Supinder Kaur. Several non-local labourers were targeted by the group. These killings resulted in mass migration of Kashmiri Pandits from the Kashmir Valley that year.

So far, the NIA has zeroed in on a Pakistani national Habibullah Malik alias Sajid Jutt, from Kasur district in Pakistan's Punjab as the TRF's main handler. Malik is seen as the brain behind the expansion of the TRF operations from the Kashmir Valley into the Pir Panjal Valley in the Jammu region. He is accused of "motivating vulnerable Kashmiri youth to join the TRF for carrying out terrorist activities in J&K".

The TRF first attributed the attack on tourists in Pahalgam to the increasing number of domicile certificates issued to outsiders in J&K. With pressure mounting globally over the massacre, the TRF in an online statement distanced itself from the attack, saying the outfit "unequivocally denies any involvement in the Pahalgam incident". "Any attribution of this act to the TRF is false, hasty, and part of an orchestrated campaign to malign the Kashmiri resistance". It termed the release of the earlier statement online as "a result of a coordinated cyber intrusion".

As security agencies claim the TRF support structure stands dismantled in the Kashmir Valley, the latest attack only shows how delicate peace remains in Kashmir with challenges being posed by such organisations as the TRF with new tactics and targets.

Man on a mission

Nainar Nagenthran

The BJP's new president in Tamil Nadu, an old AIADMK hand, seeks to build on the momentum his predecessor, Annamalai, created

N. Sai Charan

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

On April 11, the BJP ensured a smooth transition in its State leadership in Tamil Nadu. Nainar Nagenthran, a three-time MLA from Tirunelveli who also served as a Minister in Jayalalithaa's Cabinet, was unanimously elected as the State unit president of the party. The next day, he took over the reins from K. Annamalai, a former IPS officer who galvanised the party through his aggressive style of functioning.

Mr. Nagenthran's elevation from the post of vice-president of the State unit was seen as a strategic move by the BJP's high command to strengthen its relations with the AIADMK, which revived its ties with the national party earlier this month.

The political career of Mr. Nagenthran has seen both successes and setbacks. Born in 1960 at Vadiveeswaram in Nagercoil, in Tamil Nadu's southernmost Kanniyakumari district, Mr. Nagenthran traces his roots to Panagudi, a village nestled in the neighbouring Tirunelveli district. With an early interest in the natural sciences, he pursued a Bachelor's degree in Botany from Arignar Anna College in Kanniyakumari. He later enrolled in MDT Hindu College in Tirunelveli, for a Master's in Tamil literature, a course he eventually discontinued to focus on agriculture and his family's business ventures.

A staunch admirer of legendary actor and former Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran, he was drawn to politics in his college days, inspired by MGR's charisma and ideology. He joined the AIADMK and quickly became active in its students' wing. When MGR passed away in 1987 and the AIADMK faced a turbulent split, Mr. Nagenthran threw his weight behind the Jayalalithaa-led faction, cementing his place in her camp.

While Mr. Nagenthran, who belongs to the influential Thevar community in southern Tamil Nadu, had long been a dedicated party functionary, it was in 2001 that a major break came his way – a foray into electoral politics. Recognising his years of grassroots work, Jayalalithaa handpicked him as the party's candidate for the Tirunelveli Assembly constituency.

Despite a favourable wave for the AIADMK-led alliance in the 2001 elections, Mr. Nagenthran could only scrape through with a narrow win. To his surprise, Jayalalithaa inducted him into her Cabinet and entrusted him with the Transport portfolio.

In the 2006 elections, the DMK came to power, and Mr. Nagenthran narrowly lost the Tirunelveli seat by just 606 votes. The same year, the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption filed a case against him for allegedly amassing wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income. He made a strong comeback in the 2011 Assembly elections, winning Tirunelveli by over 38,000 votes.

Joining BJP

Following Jayalalithaa's death in December 2016, he joined the BJP in August 2017 in the presence of the then national president Amit Shah, citing inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed vice-president of the BJP's Tamil Nadu unit.

In 2018, he sparked a controversy by reportedly threatening Tamil lyricist Vairamuthu in a protest over the latter's alleged remarks on Andal, one among the 12 Alwars (Vaishnavite minstrels). A case was filed against him. In the 2019 general elections, Mr. Nagenthran contested from the Ramanathapuram Lok Sabha constituency but lost by nearly 1.2 lakh votes.

In the 2021 Assembly elections, he won the Tirunelveli seat as a BJP candidate. As the senior-most among the four elected BJP MLAs – three of whom were first-timers – he was appointed the legislature party leader. In both the 2019 and 2021 elections, the BJP contested in alliance with the AIADMK.

Even as the legislature party leader, Mr. Nagenthran continued to maintain a composed demeanour in the Assembly during fiery debates. With his recent elevation to the State BJP's top post, it remains to be seen whether Mr. Nagenthran would be able to sustain the momentum built by Mr. Annamalai and lead the party to new electoral successes.

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Defence Minister calls for stronger ties with Bangladesh

REUTERS

Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said he looked forward to "deepening" engagement with Bangladesh and said both sides are keenly working for furthering economic, political, and cultural cooperation. He was speaking at an event to celebrate the 54th National and Independence Day of Bangladesh. PTI

BEIJING

China insists no trade talks with U.S., despite claim made by Trump

REUTERS

China repeated on Saturday that it had held no talks with the United States on trade issues, despite President Donald Trump's claim that he had taken a call from Xi Jinping. In a statement posted on WeChat Saturday, Beijing's embassy in the U.S. capital said that "This trade war was initiated by the U.S. side". AFP

MUSCAT

Iran's Araghchi cites 'differences' with U.S. following nuclear talks

AFP

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said differences remained between the Iranian and U.S. sides after a third round of nuclear talks concluded in Oman. "There are differences in both the major issues and in the details," Mr. Araghchi said, adding that "the negotiations this time were much more serious than before". AFP

OTTAWA

Canadians to cast their ballots in an election upended by U.S. threats

REUTERS

Canada goes to the polls on Monday after a campaign electrified by U.S. President Donald Trump's threats, with Prime Minister Mark Carney favoured to win after promising voters he has the experience to stand up to the U.S. A victory for his Liberal Party would mark one of the most dramatic turnarounds in Canadian political history. AFP.

Russia claims to have retaken Kursk with help from North Korean troops

Admitting to the participation of Pyongyang's soldiers in Ukraine war for the first time, Russian military chief says they provided significant assistance in defeating the group of Ukrainian armed forces; Kyiv disputes claims of Kremlin gains

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Fruitful result: Vladimir Putin holds a videoconference with Gen. Valery Gerasimov in Moscow on Saturday. AP

The Russian Army has fully liberated the border Kursk region from Ukrainian control with the help of North Korean soldiers, Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov said on Saturday, admitting their participation in the conflict for the first time.

Mr. Gerasimov especially hailed the "heroism" of the North Korean soldiers taking part in the operation, who "provided significant assistance in defeating the group of Ukrainian armed forces".

But shortly after the Ukrainian Army denied Russia's claim to have driven Kyiv's forces out of Kursk, saying that "statements by the enemy leadership about the 'defeat' of the Ukrainian troops are nothing more than propaganda tricks".

However, the Ukrainian Chief of Staff acknowledged the situation on the battlefield was "difficult", while insisting Ukrainian forces were still holding positions in Kursk.

The Ukrainian Army said it was also continuing operations in some areas of Belgorod, another Russia's border region.

According to South Korean and Western intelligence agencies, more than 10,000 soldiers from North Korea were sent to Russia last year to help Moscow fight Ukraine's shock offensive in Kursk.

Kyiv had hoped it could use land in the Kursk region as a bargaining chip in future peace talks with Russia, which has seized parts of eastern and southern Ukraine since its offensive began in 2022.

"Today, the last settlement in the Kursk region, the village of Gornal, has been liberated from Ukrainian forces," Mr. Gerasimov said during a video conference meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "The Kyiv regime's adventure has completely failed," Mr. Putin told Mr. Gerasimov, thanking the soldiers for the service and saying that Kursk's liberation will create the conditions for further advances at other parts of the front.

The news of Kursk's claimed recapture came as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky discussed efforts to reach a "full and unconditional ceasefire" with U.S. President Donald Trump on the sidelines of Pope Francis's funeral at the Vatican.

Francis, 'the pope among the people', is laid to rest

Agence France-Presse
ROME

Bon voyage: Guests attend the funeral of Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City on Saturday. GETTY IMAGES

Pope Francis was laid to rest in Rome on Saturday after a Vatican funeral for the "pope among the people" attended by hundreds of thousands of mourners and world leaders including U.S. President Donald Trump.

Around 4,00,000 people packed St Peter's Square and lined the streets in Rome to say goodbye to the Argentine pontiff, a champion of the poor who had led the world's 1.4 billion Catholics since 2013.

After a solemn funeral in front of hushed crowds, Francis's plain wooden coffin – a testament to a life of humility – was driven slowly to Rome's Santa Maria Maggiore church, where he will be interred in a private ceremony.

The marble tomb of the Catholic Church's first Latin American leader is inscribed with just one word: "Franciscus", his name in Latin.

More than 50 heads of state were present at the funeral.

Francis, who died on Monday aged 88, was "a pope among the people, with an open heart", who strove for a more compassionate, open-minded Catholic Church, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re said in his homily.

Francis sought to steer the centuries-old Church into a more inclusive direction during his 12-year papacy, and his death prompted a global outpouring of emotion.

Trump wary about Putin's desire to end Ukraine war

Associated Press
ROME

Donald Trump meets with Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of Pope Francis's funeral at St. Peter's Basilica at The Vatican. AFP

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday that he doubts Russia's Vladimir Putin wants to end his war in Ukraine, expressing new scepticism that a peace deal can be reached soon. Only a day earlier, Mr. Trump had said Ukraine and Russia were " very close to a deal."

"There was no reason for Putin to be shooting missiles into civilian areas, cities and towns, over the last few days," Mr. Trump said in a social media post as he flew back to the U.S. after attending Pope Francis' funeral at the Vatican, where he met briefly with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Mr. Trump also hinted at further sanctions against Russia.

"It makes me think that maybe he doesn't want to stop the war, he's just tapping me along, and has to be dealt with differently, through "Banking" or "Secondary Sanctions?" Too many people are dying!!!" Mr. Trump wrote.

The new doubts aired by Mr. Trump come as the President and top aides intensify their push to come to a deal to end the war that began in February 2022 when Russian invaded Ukraine.

The comments also sharply contrasted with Mr. Trump's positive assessment that the two sides were "very close to a deal" after his special envoy, Steve Witkoff, had met with Mr. Putin in Moscow on Friday.

At least 49 killed in Israel's strikes on Gaza Strip

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

At least 49 people were killed by Israeli strikes in the last 24 hours, according to health officials, as Arab mediators scrambled to restart a ceasefire.

The attacks come as Hamas said on Saturday that it sent a high-level delegation to Cairo to resume truce talks.

Hamas said the delegation will discuss with Egyptian officials the group's vision to end the war, which includes the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza. Earlier this week, other Hamas officials arrived in Cairo to discuss a proposal that would include a five-to-seven year truce and the release of all remaining hostages. .

Five killed, 700 injured in blast linked to missile fuel shipment at Iranian port

Associated Press
MUSCAT

The blast at the Shahid Rajaei port in Bandar Abbas happened as Iran and the U.S. met on Saturday in Oman for talks. REUTERS

A massive explosion and fire rocked a port on Saturday in southern Iran purportedly linked to a shipment of a chemical ingredient used to make missile propellant, killing five persons and injuring more than 700 others.

The blast at the Shahid Rajaei port happened as Iran and the U.S. met on Saturday in Oman for the third round of negotiations over Tehran's nuclear programme.

While no one in Iran outright suggested that the explosion came from an attack, even Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who is leading the talks, on Wednesday acknowledged that "our security services are on high alert given past instances of attempted sabotage and assassination operations designed to provoke a response."

However, the port took in a shipment of "sodium perchlorate rocket fuel" in March, the private security firm Ambrey said. The fuel is part of a shipment from China by two vessels to Iran first reported in January by the *Financial Times*. The fuel was going to be used to replenish Iran's missile stocks, which had been depleted by its direct attacks on Israel during the war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip. "The fire was reportedly the result of improper handling of a shipment of solid fuel intended for use in Iranian ballistic missiles," Ambrey said.

GRIM REALITY

Changes have to be made if most players are not doing well: Dhoni

R. RAGU

In a tournament like this, if you have one or two areas where you can plug in the holes, it is good. But if a majority of players are not doing well, it is difficult. If four of them are not performing at the same time, you are bound to make that change, because you can't just keep on going — CSK skipper M.S. Dhoni.

FLEMINGSPEAK

'Will do everything we can to improve our squad, philosophy'

R. RAGU

To not perform up to our expectations, but more importantly, the fans' expectations, leaves us very empty. What the fans will get is an absolutely strong commitment. We still want to win games, but we will also do everything we can to improve the squad and our philosophy — CSK coach Stephen Fleming.

BACK IN THE MIX

du Plessis available for selection against RCB, says Fraser-McGurk

R.V. MOORTHY

DC opener Faf du Plessis is available for selection for the IPL match against RCB in New Delhi on Sunday, said teammate Jake Fraser-McGurk. The South African has played only three out of eight games this season due to injury issues. The 40-year-old's last appearance for DC came against RCB in the reverse fixture.

BREAKING BARRIERS

IPL has reached a stage where even 300 is possible: KKR's Rinku

FILE PHOTO: SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Kolkata Knight Riders batter Rinku Singh feels the IPL has now reached a stage where a team breaching the 300-run barrier in an innings won't be a surprise. "Yes, we can do it. IPL has reached a stage where even 300 is possible; last year, Punjab chased a total of 262 runs. All teams are strong this season — anyone can get to 300".

On the charge: Priyansh and Prabhsimran took the attack to the KKR bowlers. K.R. DEEPAK

Prabhsimran and Priyansh fire before the heavens open up

The PBKS openers put on 120 after Shreyas opts to bat; KKR stages a brilliant comeback in the death overs; both teams get a point each

IPL-18

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Heavy rain played spoilsport as the Indian Premier League match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Punjab Kings at the Eden Gardens here was abandoned on Saturday.

Opting to bat, PBKS benefitted from openers Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh's brilliant half-centuries, resulting in a 71-ball 120-run partnership, to post a challenging 201 for four.

KKR was seven for no loss after the first over when strong dusty winds followed by a thunderstorm stopped play around 9:35 p.m.

Massive covers were blown away even as groundsmen bravely stood on them to prevent those from flying away.

As action could not resume due to persistent rain, the match was called off around 11 p.m. with both teams getting a point apiece from the first washout of the season.

Earlier, it was smooth sailing for the PBKS openers in the PowerPlay. Priyansh (69, 35b, 8x4, 4x6), who began with a four off the first ball, found the gaps with ease.

Prabhsimran (83, 49b, 6x4, 6x6) joined the entertainment with smart shot selection and improvisation.

The KKR spinners brought the economy down before Priyansh, who had some lucky escapes, hammered Harshit Rana for two fours and a six to reach his half-century.

The duo plundered 22 runs off Sunil Narine in the 11th over. Priyansh stepped out to hit over long-on and Prabhsimran displayed his switch-hit and flat-batted straight shot to smash two more sixes.

Andre Russell provided KKR some respite by having Priyansh caught at deep midwicket.

Prabhsimran played gorgeous shots on both sides and got to his second fifty of the season. When he departed, caught at long-off off Vaibhav Arora, PBKS was well placed to score a massive total.

But the KKR bowlers pulled things back, giving away only 40 runs besides picking up a couple of wickets in the last five overs.

Vaibhav and Russell bowled intelligently to keep things tight. Captaining PBKS against his former side, Shreyas Iyer, let off on 12, managed to take his team past the 200-run mark with an unbeaten 25.

SCOREBOARD

PUNJAB KINGS
Priyansh Arya c Vaibhav b Russell 69 *(35b, 8x4, 4x6)*, Prabhsimran Singh c Powell b Vaibhav 83 *(49b, 6x4, 6x6)*, Shreyas Iyer (not out) 25 *(16b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Glenn Maxwell b Varun 7 *(8b, 1x4)*, Marco Jansen c Venkatesh b Vaibhav 3 *(7b)*, Josh Inglis (not out) 11 *(6b, 2x4)*; Extras (nb-1, w-2): 3; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 201.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-120 (Priyansh, 11.5 overs), 2-160 (Prabhsimran, 14.3), 3-172 (Maxwell, 16.4), 4-184 (Jansen, 18.3).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Vaibhav 4-0-34-2, Sakariya 3-0-39-0, Harshit 2-0-27-0, Varun 4-0-39-1, Narine 4-0-35-0, Russell 3-0-27-1.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Rahmanullah Gurbaz (not out) 1 *(3b)*, Sunil Narine (not out) 4 *(3b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (for no loss in one over): 7.

KINGS BOWLING
Jansen 1-0-6-0.

Toss: PBKS.
Match called off due to rain.

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	8	6	2	0	12	1.104
Delhi Capitals	8	6	2	0	12	0.657
Royal Challengers	9	6	3	0	12	0.482
Punjab Kings	9	5	3	1	11	0.177
Mumbai Indians	9	5	4	0	10	0.673
Lucknow Super Giants	9	5	4	0	10	-0.054
Kolkata Knight Riders	9	3	5	1	7	0.212
Sunrisers Hyderabad	9	3	6	0	6	-1.103
Rajasthan Royals	9	2	7	0	4	-0.625
Chennai Super Kings	9	2	7	0	4	-1.302

* Till the KKR-PBKS match on April 26

Next assignment

KKR: April 29 vs **DC**
Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

PBKS: April 30 vs **CSK**
Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

Can Mumbai Indians make it five victories in a row?

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Mumbai Indians, after a usual slow start to the season, has switched into top gear in no time.

Thanks to their four-match winning run, Hardik Pandya's men have been catapulted into the top four for the first time since he took over ahead of IPL 2024.

Come Sunday, MI will be hoping to make it a perfect five by overcoming Rishabh Pant's Lucknow Super Giants. But the task will be easier said than done. After all, never has MI defeated LSG in a league match in the previous three editions.

Even on current form, with LSG hovering around the qualification mark for most of the tournament, the host will have its task cut out.

MI will be hoping for Deepak Chahar and Trent Boult to account for LSG's top-three overseas batters so that Jasprit Bumrah can be used in the middle and death overs.

Spin-factor: Bishnoi and Digvesh will have to step up against the MI batting might. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Mitchell Marsh has been consistent, Aiden Markram has flourished as the tournament has progressed, and Nicholas Pooran has had a bit of a dip after a sensational start.

LSG will be banking on the top three to fire on a fresh Wankhede Stadium pitch - the centre wicket that will be used for the first time this season.

For MI, Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav have found form, thus making the opposition bowling attack mediocre over the last week. If spinners Digvesh Rathi and Ravi Bishnoi can contain them, the visitor will give itself a good chance.

Meanwhile, suspense lingered over Mayank Yadav's availability for Sunday's game. The pacer was seen at LSG's training on Friday but wasn't at the ground on Saturday.

We always had belief in Rohit, says Pollard

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Mumbai Indians batting coach Kieron Pollard has stressed that the dressing room never lost faith in Rohit Sharma's ability with the bat and Hardik Pandya's captaincy.

"We always had that belief that he's (Rohit) going to come good. There are dips, there's low confidence. But for someone who has played this sport for a long time, you have these moments and sometimes you just need that extra support from people," Pollard said on Saturday.

"Now, we are singing his praises; we are all very happy. In the MI dressing room, we were happy at the start as well, knowing that it was going to happen and long may it continue so the headlines are going to be about that."

Rohit's consecutive fifties – a first since IPL 2016 – have been instrumental in elevating MI into top four. Similarly, Hardik has also appeared much more settled this IPL after facing flak all through the 2024 edition.

Rohit. EMMANUAL YOGINI

"He is enjoying cricket, as we have all seen from international cricket, (from) winning World Cup to Champions Trophy to everything. It's (about) an individual that has gone through a lot," Pollard said.

"For me, not getting in too much depth, it's great to see a human being that has been challenged in different facets – of not only cricket but of life – come out and continue to show what cricket and what winning means to him. We are all human beings, so sometimes we need to give a bit of leeway to some individuals at a certain time".

Well planned: Vettori said shuffling the batting order helped SRH during the chase. R. RAGU

Onus was on us to adapt: SRH's Vettori

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
CHENNAI

> We have to get better at these surfaces, there's no doubt about that

Sunrisers Hyderabad's slam-bang batting style has not delivered results in IPL 2025.

Head coach Daniel Vettori, quite understandably, was pleased with the way SRH went out of its comfort zone while chasing down Chennai Super Kings' 154 on Friday.

The visitor brought in the ambidextrous Kamindu Mendis into the XI and gave Nitish Kumar Reddy – who has been struggling to get going – the finisher's role.

The ploy was to handle the slow nature of the MAC Stadium pitch better.

"The onus was on us to adapt and understand what's required, and that's why the likes of Kamindu came into the team, that's why there was the shuffle in the batting order, putting (Heinrich) Klaasen up and Nitish down.

"That was to give us a more balanced approach to the chase," Vettori said after Sunrisers' five-wicket victory.

"We have to get better at these surfaces, there's no doubt about that. If our bowlers put up performances like that, then we have to complement them."

The Kiwi pinpointed Mendis' superlative catch to dismiss Dewald Brevis as the turning point.

"I think it's just instinct. It's an innate ability to be able to move, see the ball and time your diving. It's probably one of those catches that even a brilliant fielder only has one or two in their career.

"But more importantly, it came when Brevis was putting a lot of pressure back on us. If he'd stayed on, probably the score would have gotten away from us," Vettori added.

DC hopes to end RCB's perfect away record

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

When Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bengaluru get mentioned in the same breath, the reference is usually to their long-standing failure to win an Indian Premier League (IPL) title. In a marked change, however, the thing uniting both franchises this season is that they are cruising in the top half of the points table with the resources to go all the way.

At the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday evening, the battle between the in-form teams should make for a riveting watch. Always adding to the sense of occasion around this contest, of course, is the presence of Virat Kohli. As much as he is adored by RCB's fervent fan base for his unwavering commitment to the franchise over 18 seasons, he is also a quintessential Delhiite.

The 36-year-old has been in sparkling form. He has transitioned seamlessly between aggressor and accumulator depending on the situation, racking up 392 runs in nine innings at 65.33 while also maintaining a strike rate of 144.11. With the likes of Phil Salt, Devdutt Padikkal, Rajat Patidar and Tim David playing solid supporting roles and the bowlers delivering in crunch situations, RCB has managed to etch a perfect away record so far with five wins in as many matches.

For the host, K.L. Rahul will hold the key.

Stellar show: Rahul was the difference when the two teams met earlier. R.V. MOORTHY

Today's matches

MUMBAI INDIANS vs. LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS

Mumbai, 3.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 7
MI 1 | LSG 6
PREVIOUS MEETING
LSG won by 12 runs, 2025

DELHI CAPITALS vs. RCB

Delhi, 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 32
DC 12 | RCB 19 | NR 1
PREVIOUS MEETING
DC won by six wickets, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

In the reverse fixture in Bengaluru, he was the difference between the two teams, steering DC home in a chase of 164 with an unbeaten 93. After the knock, the man from Karnataka let out a roar and exclaimed that "this is my ground".

Will Kohli get a chance to do the same on Sunday?

INBRIEF

Shambhavi dominates air rifle event

Shambhavi Kshirsagar (in pic, centre) won two gold and a silver in the air rifle individual events in the 23rd Kumar Surendra Singh shooting championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Range here on Saturday.

The results: 10m air rifle: Women: 1. Shambhavi Kshirsagar 252.9 (633.5); 2. Ramita Jindal 252.1 (632.4); 3. Mehuli Ghosh 231.0 (631.8).
Juniors: 1. Ramita 253.4 (632.4); 2. Shambhavi 251.9 (633.5); 3. Manya Mittal 231.2 (629.9).
Youth: 1. Shambhavi 253.6 (633.5); 2. Nidhi Mittal 251.8 (630.4); 3. Gautami Bhanot (229.5 (631.4).
Sub-youth: 1. Dhruvisha Choudhary 628.8; 2. Tamanyu Sirangi 628.6; 3. Pranju Somani 628.1.
At Bhopal: 10m air pistol: Mixed team: 1. Haryana (Aditya Malra, Rhythm Sangwan) 16 (580); 2. Maharashtra (Pranav Patil, Rahi Sarnobat) 14 (575); 3. Rajasthan (Omprakash Mitharval, Mohini Singh) 16 (573).

India guaranteed 43 medals at Asian junior boxing c'ships

Four more pugilists qualified for the semifinals as India is guaranteed 43 medals in the inaugural Asian under-15 & 17 boxing in Amman. India is assured of 25 medals in the under-15 category while another 18 are set to be won in the under-17 section, since all semifinalists get bronze medals.

The results (Indians unless specified): U-17 quarterfinals: Men, 60kg: Sahil Duhan lost to Amirali Mehrabi (Iri); **63kg:** Aman Siwach bt Ziadrach James Cabrera (Phi); **66kg:** Anant Gaurishankar Deshmukh lost to Daniyal Shalkarbay (Kaz); **75kg:** Priyansh Sehrawat (Ind) lost to Khurshidbek Juraev (Uzb); **80kg:** Devansh bt Abdallah Aldabbas (Jor); **80+ kg:** Loven Gulia lost to Farhoud Ghorbani (Iri).

Women, 60 kg: Simranjeet Kaur bt Aya Alhasanat (Jor); **70kg:** Himanshi bt Farah Abou Layla (Ple).

Indian women go down to Australia-A

The Indian women's hockey team went down 5-3 to a clinical Australia-A in its opening match of the tour Down Under in Perth on Saturday.

The result: Australia-A 5 (Neasa Flynn 3, Olivia Downes 9, Ruby Harris 11, Tatum Stewart 21, Kendra Fitzpatrick 44) bt India 3 (Mahima Tete 27, Navneet Kaur 45, Lalremsiami 50).

LIVE TELECAST

Women ODI tri-series: Sri Lanka vs India, FanCode, 10 a.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 6.30 & 9 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 9 p.m.

Sahal & Suhail help MBSG beat KBFC

Debutant Salahudheen chips in with a crucial assist in a cagey contest; Sreekuttan cuts down the deficit with a consolation goal

SUPER CUP

Joan Mathew Jacob
BHUBANESWAR

Mohun Bagan Super Giant's youngsters justified their selection for the Super Cup 2025 after beating Kerala Blasters 2-1 in their quarterfinal clash on Saturday.

Sahal Abdul Samad and youngster Suhail Bhat scored in either half, while Sreekuttan MS got a consolation goal in added time for the Blasters. After over 20 minutes without an attempt at either end of the pitch, it was Sahal who made full use of MBSG's first chance in front of goal.

Debutant Salahudheen Adnan K showcased some silky footwork on the right to get past Huidrom Naocha Singh and dribble into the box before laying the ball off to Sahal inside the six-yard box.

Putting in a shift: MBSG's Suhail, left, sets himself up for a goal. BISWARANJAN ROUT

The midfielder did well to take a touch away from R.V. Hormipam before producing a composed chip past Sachin Suresh to take the lead.

The Mariners doubled the lead in six minutes into the second half when Ashique Kuruniyan skipped past Hormipam on the left wing before delivering an inch-perfect pass into the middle. Suhail, the youngest player on the pitch for MBSG, made a run ahead of Drincic and guided the ball into the back of the net. KBFC got one back through Sreekuttan in the fourth minute of added time, who drilled the ball into the net after reaching a defence-splitting through ball from Jesus Jimenez.

Goa beats Punjab

Later, two late goals helped FC Goa complete a 2-1 comeback win over Punjab FC in their last-eight clash.

Norberto Ezequiel Vidal scored for Punjab, while Borja Herrera and Mohammad Yasir found the target in the closing stages of the game to send the Gaurs through to the semifinal.

Punjab took the lead after the ball came to Vidal inside the box, who smashed the ball first-time with his left foot into the bottom right corner.

Goa found the equaliser courtesy of a superd strike from Borja in the 89th minute. Substitute Brison Fernandes' cross from the right was not properly cleared away by the Punjab defence, and it reached Borja, who controlled it with his chest before using his lace to place the ball in.

Substitute Mohammad Yasir's snapshot attempt took a deflection off Ivan Novoselec and into the back of the net (90+2).

The results: Kerala Blasters 1 (Sreekuttan 90+4) lost to Mohun Bagan Super Giant 2 (Sahal 22, Suhail 51).
Goa 2 (Herrera 89, Yasir 90+2) bt Punjab 1 (Vidal 57).

Cheptegei and Chepngeno lead the field in TCS World 10K run

ATHLETICS

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

The 17th edition of the TCS World 10K run, with nearly 35,000 enthusiastic participants, is set to liven up an idyllic Sunday morning here.

The streets of central Bengaluru will wear a festive look bright and early, as the event commences at 5.30 a.m. with the elite World 10K Women.

The World 10K Men will be flagged off from Cubbon Road at 6.08 a.m., followed immediately by the Open 10K.

The early start for elite runners is bound to quicken the pace, given that the sun will not be out in full force.

Route changes

The route, meanwhile, has undergone some changes to accommodate faster timings.

The big names: Cheptegei, Chepngeno and Geay. PTI

"The course is in good shape, and we have taken feedback from last year to navigate a less intimidating route.

The inclined stretch on Kamaraj Road that was at the final stretch of the route is now at the middle of race, making it more accessible and friendly to all participants," race director Hugh Jones said.

Reigning Olympic 10,000m champion Joshua Cheptegei will lead the field in the World 10K Men category.

Gabriel Gerald Geay, who finished seventh in the World Championship Marathon three years ago, will challenge Cheptegei. Uganda's Stephen Kissa, who finished third here in 2017, is another notable contender.

Nicholas Kimeli holds the course record for men at 27:38s.

Kenyan runner Cintia Chepngeno is one of eight women who have clocked personal bests faster than the course record of 30:35s, held by her compatriot Irene Cheptai since 2022.

The World 10K Men will be flagged off from Cubbon Road at 6.08 a.m., followed immediately by the Open 10K.

Primary challenger

Eritrean athlete Rahel Daniel, who finished fifth in 10,000m in the 2022 World Championships, will be Chepngeno's primary challenger.

The Indian elite men's field will be spearheaded by Sawan Barwal, who recently set a 10,000m meet record at the Federation Cup.

Sanjivani Jadhav, 2017 Asian Championships 5,000m bronze medallist, starts as favourite among Indian elite women.

The World Athletics Gold Label Race offers a total prize purse of $210,000.

Karna Kadur opens up a sizeable lead

Top-class driving: Karna Kadur, who leads the APRC and INRC at the Indu Chandhok Memorial 48th South India Rally.

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Karna Kadur opened up a sizable lead in the FIA Asia Pacific Rally Championship, part of the Indu Chandhok Memorial 48th South India Rally, here on Saturday. Kadur leads his Arka Motorsports teammate Harkrishan Wadia and Kunal Kashyap by over a minute.

The results (provisional): FIA-APRC/Overall: 1. Karna Kadur / Musa Sherif (Arka Motorsports) (01 hr, 05 min, 25.4 secs); 2. Harkrishan Wadia / Kunal Kashyap (Arka Motorsports) (01:06:34.2); 3. Amittrajit Ghosh / Ashwin Naik (Arka Motorsports) (01:06:39.8).
INRC: 1. Kadur / Sherif; 2. Ghosh / Naik; 3. Suhem Kabir / Vinay Padmashali (Pvt.) (01:09:03.9).
INRC2: 1. Wadia / Kashyap; 2. Philippos Matthai / Harish KN (Arka Motorsports) (01:06:51.3); 3. Fabid Ahmer / Milen George (Chettinad Sporting) (01:06:56.1).
INRC3: 1. Arnav Pratap Singh / Rohit N (SNAP Racing) (01:07:37.8); 2. Vishak B / Chiranth Jain (Chettinad Sporting) (01:07:52.8); 3. Abin Rai / Moideen Jasheer KM (Pvt.) (01:08:34.1).
INRC 3T (Turbo): 1. C Ramcharan / Vignesh Mahalingam (01:14:40.1).

Bayern cruises past Mainz but title celebrations on ice

EURO LEAGUES

Reuters
MUNICH

Bundesliga leader Bayern Munich eased past Mainz 05 3-0 on Saturday but had to put its title celebrations on ice after Bayer Leverkusen matched its win with a 2-0 result against Augsburg to stay eight points behind with three matches left to play.

The Bavarians, top on 75 points ahead of Leverkusen in second with 67, can now secure a 34th German league title with a win at RB Leipzig next week.

Borussia Dortmund conceded a stoppage-time equaliser but still managed to score a last-gasp winner through Waldemar Anton for a 3-2 win at Hoffenheim that boosted its chances of making next season's Champions League with three league games left.

Back in the mix

Chelsea climbed back into contention for next season's Champions League with a 1-0 home win over Everton thanks to a fine first-half strike by Nicolas Jackson.

Later Ipswich Town was relegated following a 3-0 defeat at Newcastle United, with the visitors reduced to 10 men after Ben Johnson was sent off for picking up two yellow cards in the first half.

Cool finish: Sane fires in Bayern's opener against Mainz. GETTY IMAGES

Ipswich has 21 points, 15 behind West Ham United, which lost at Brighton, with four games left, while Newcastle moved up to third place on 62, five behind second-placed Arsenal and one ahead of Manchester City in fourth in the race for Champions League football next season.

Brighton's Kaoru Mitoma and Carlos Baleba struck late goals in a thrilling 3-2 victory over West Ham United that ended its run of seven successive games without a victory across all competitions.

The results: Premier League: Chelsea 1 (Jackson 27) bt Everton 0; Brighton 3 (Ayari 13, Mitoma 89, Baleba 90+2) bt West Ham 2 (Kudus 48, Soucek 83); Newcastle United 3 (Isak 45+4-pen, Burn 56, Osula 80) bt Ipswich 0; Southampton 1 (Stephens 14) lost to Fulham 2 (Smith Rowe 72, Sessegnon 90+2); Wolves 3 (Cunha 33, Strand Larsen 56, Rodrigo 85) bt Leicester 0.

Bundesliga: Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Schick 13, Buendía 45+1) bt Augsburg 0; Bayern Munich 3 (Sane 27, Olise 40, Dier 84) bt Mainz 0; Hoffenheim 2 (Hlozek 61, Kaderabek 90) lost to Borussia Dortmund 3 (Guirassy 20, Brandt 74, Anton 90+5); Wolfsburg 0 lost to Freiburg 1 (Rosenfelder 49); Holstein Kiel 4 (Machino 15, 90+1; Bernhardsson 23, Gigovic 76) bt Borussia M'gladbach 3 (Cvancara 60, Plea 69, Honorat 86).

Chebet triumphs in duel with Tesgay

Emerging on top: Chebet held off Tesgay in the women's 5000m event. REUTERS

DIAMOND LEAGUE

Reuters
XIAMEN

Chebet triumphs in duel with Tesgay

Xiamen: Olympic champion Beatrice Chebet triumphed in her distance duel with Gudaf Tesgay, Mondo Duplantis won the pole vault and Shericka Jackson finished second on her return to the track as the 2025 Diamond League season got underway on Saturday.

Sweden's Duplantis was the headline act but there was to be no repeat of his record-breaking feats in Xiamen last year as he failed with three attempts at 6.01m to win with 5.92.

Chebet was delighted with how she came through her race against world record holder Tesgay and nine other Ethiopians in the women's 5,000m after pulling away down the home straight to win in 14m, 27.12s.

South African Akani Simbine and American Anavia Battle confirmed their fine early season form with victories in the showcase sprint races.

Simbine powered to 100m victory in 9.99 seconds ahead of Kenyan Ferdinand Omanyala (10.13) and world indoor sprint champion Jeremiah Azu of Briton (10.17).

Ethiopian Samuel Firewu handed twice Olympic champion Soufiane El Bakkali a rare defeat in the 3,000m steeplechase, holding off the Moroccan after stumbling on the final hurdle to win in 8.05.61.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Angad claims Kapil Dev-Grant Thornton Invitational Cup

Angad Cheema dominated the final round with a six-under 66 to win the Kapil Dev-Grant Thornton Invitational at the Prestige Golfshire on Saturday. Cheema's (66-64-66) final-round effort helped him total 20-under 196 and win the 54-hole event by a two-stroke margin to lift his fourth professional title (third on the PGTI main tour). The victory saw 35-year-old Cheema pick up a winning cheque worth ₹30 lakh, propelling him from 28th position to 10th place in the PGTI Order of Merit.

Khalin Joshi (65-67-66) carded a last round of 66 to finish runner-up with a total of 18-under 198 while Abhinav Lohan (66-65-70) finished third at 15-under 201 following his third round of 70.

Pranavi Urs (71-65-72) had the best finish among the lady professionals as she ended the tournament tied in 18th place with a total of eight-under 208.

One for the album: Angad receives the trophy from Gavaskar as Kapil and Harbhajan look on. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shlok HC wins title

Shlok Hockey Club crushed RWFSA 5-1 in the final to lift the KSHA-BHA Super Division Hockey League title.

The results (final): Shlok 5 (Yeswanth 3, 41, Talab Shah 17, V.A. Md. Fahad 29, Sachin Kolekar 34) bt RWFSA 1 (Sudheer Kujur 18). **Third-place match:** Hindustan Friends 5 (Y. Anand 14, 19, 21, M. Hariharan 43, D. Aravind Rajan 54) bt V. Raja 1 (Muthu 49).

Reigning supreme: Shlok Hockey Club, winner of the KSHA-BHA Super Division Hockey League Championship.

Special prizes: best goalkeeper: G. Dharmendra (RWFSA); **best defender:** Md. Fahad (Shlok); **best midfielder:** R. Praveen Kumar (Hindustan Friends); **best forward:** Ranjeeth (RWFSA); **player-of-the-tournament:** Talab Shah (Shlok).

Swimming camp

The third batch of Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre's (BAC) summer camp will start from May 2. Classes will be conducted for beginners and competitive swimmers.

For details call: 98444 62077 / 99727 37607.